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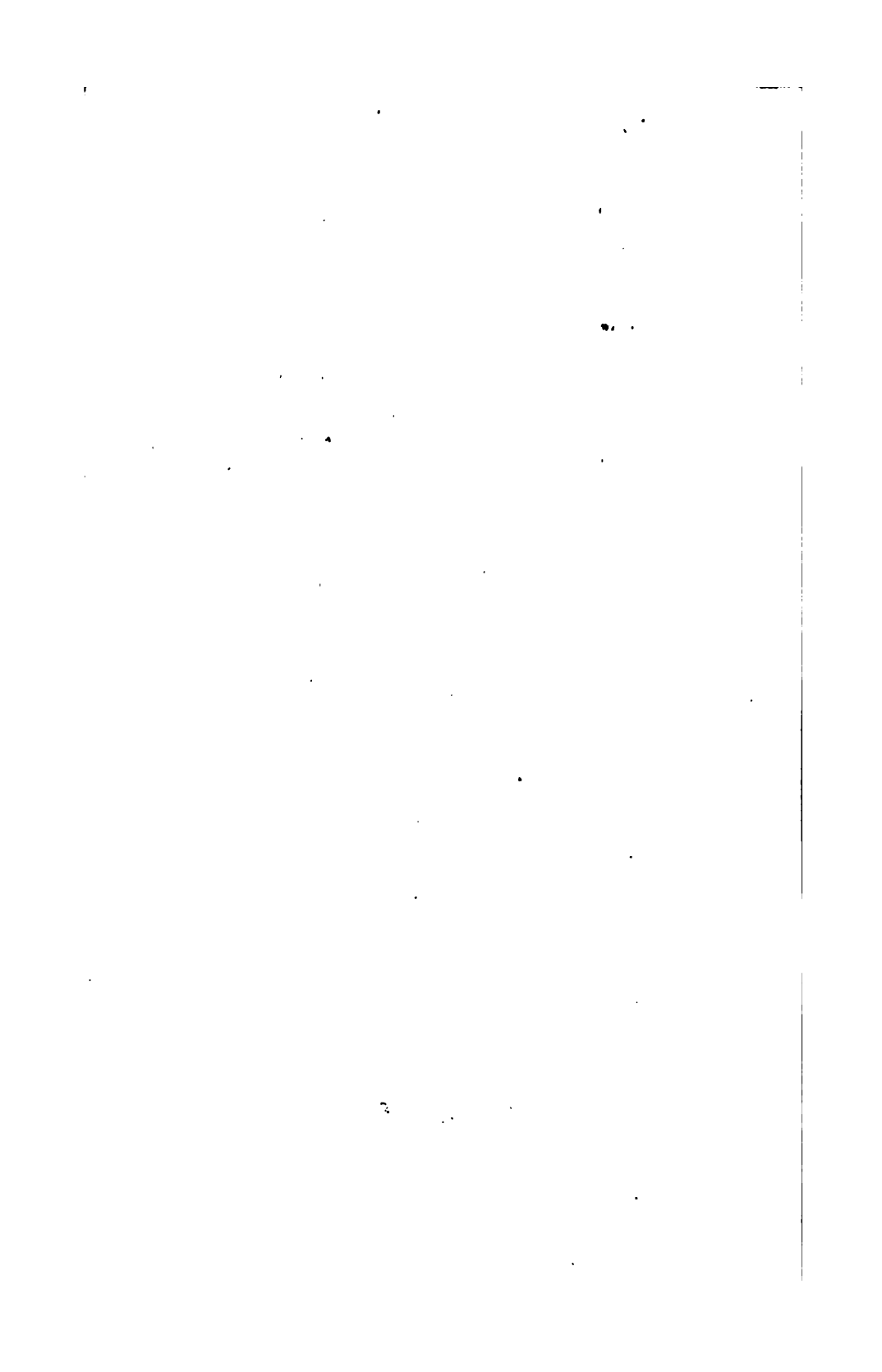
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**CALIFORNIA:**  
**ITS GOLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.**

**BY THE AUTHOR**  
**OF "SEVEN YEARS ON THE SLAVE COAST OF AFRICA,"**  
**"PEREGRINE SCRAMBLE," &c.**

**IN TWO VOLUMES.**

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## PREFACE.

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THE following pages have been prepared from a journal briefly written every evening during my residence in California, in 1852; the few statistics which appear, have been noted down as they from time to time came before me.

In speaking of the American, it must



be borne in mind that he is represented as he is found *in California*, so far as respects the mass at that period; since, matters have in some degree improved.



# CALIFORNIA;

## ITS GOLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### JANUARY—SAN FRANCISCO.

A LOVELY day—the winter is by far the best time of the year ; certainly when the rains begin they are heavy, but ten days and a fortnight often follow with a delightful sunshine, and temperature never under forty degrees during the day ; the evenings and mornings may require a little fire in the grate, but no one attends to it through the day, so it goes out. The

worst of the winter is the mud ; knee-deep is a trifle in the vicinity of the town ; and many of the streets not planked are now impassable.

This is a great day with our American friends here ; every one calls upon every one, so the streets present a scene of incessant salutation in spite of mud ; all the richer families have tables spread from noon till evening, with cakes, pies, jellies, ices, cold chicken, &c. ; tea, coffee, liquors, champagne—eternal champagne, till one sickens at the sight of it ; and how the men drink !

Then the several companies of firemen turn out and traverse the town in procession ; they dress in helmets, red woollen frocks, and black trowsers—this is all well enough ; but what strange enthusiasm makes them drag their engines, with all the appurtenances, about with

them? They have pride in the efficiency of their engines, and in case of fire, turn out with great alacrity, and, it must be allowed, noise.

A general fusillade in the streets, kept up by boys throwing explosive crackers about; the day winds up by all the male creation perambulating the drinking and gambling saloons, and then people become somewhat "tight," as the Americans call it.

I dined at a boarding-house—a bad dinner, everything huddled together, and cigars afterwards—worse than all.

---

A cloudy morning. The steamer "Northerner" came in from Panama with European and Atlantic mails—what crowds of people rush to the post-office to get a standing-place near the delivery window; as each arrives he forms up

behind the last man : in this manner they stand in single file, to wait their turn, with strange patience ; I am sure I have seen five hundred men so waiting, and, on some occasions, a good place has been taken early by a "cute" Yankee, who expected no letters, but speculated upon its sale when he took the position ; such places in the line have been sold for ten dollars. Through the consul, I got my letters early, some from home, a short one from the board, disappointing enough—directors seem to think machinery can be put up, mines opened, and returns made, without first sending out money.

The Aqua Fria Company seem to be "going ahead," because they have capital. A quartz lode at Placerville is offered to me—fair terms—the owners or agents, however are Jews, rather they were not—propose going to examine it. The ore

yields well, but where it really came from is a "quien sabe."

There are in the harbour 512 vessels, united tonnage 112,466. There are at Benicia, Sacramento, and Stockton, combined, 100 more, chiefly barques, this is exclusive of steamers—majority of these vessels are lying directed, and are going to ruin; supposing these vessels to be worth but ten dollars per ton, the value of those in San Francisco alone would be 1,344,660 dollars. Two years ago, scarcely a fishing-boat was to be seen here; now all the European nations feel it necessary to have a consul here, to look after their trading interests. Gold has, indeed, a wonderful power.

The night is brilliant, with its clear starlight.

---

A fine day, cool northerly wind, bright

and sunny, without frost.—Saw my Jew friends about their quartz lode at Placerville, arranged some preliminaries conditionally, the condition being, if I have money sent from England—sadly bothered on that head. The quartz of California is unquestionably good, better by far than that of the Brazils; only there the labour is cheap, and here it is dear. A good article in the newspapers to-day on quartz-mining:—

“ In looking over the Atlantic papers we frequently notice announcements of the formation, in various parts of the older States, of companies for the purpose of bringing out machinery and apparatus to work gold-bearing quartz in this State. We look upon all such movements with the greatest interest. If proper care is taken in their organization, and practical machinists employed and

engaged in carrying them into operation, and complete and suitable machinery procured, there can be no doubt whatever of their success. But these requisites are indispensable. Many companies have been organized, and come here with machinery, but there have been none, within our knowledge, that have maintained their organization, and carried out their original intention. There seems to be some strange fatality attendant upon these companies, and many a man has embarked his all in them, and immigrated hither, only to find his operation a splendid failure. Large amounts of machinery have been landed here, which have been considered as wholly valueless.

"In hopes that we may throw some light upon the subject, and aid those who may be about to embark in these projects in the Atlantic States, we submit a few



remarks. In the first place, we look upon it as a piece of folly, for any set of men in the Atlantic States to attempt to form a company made up exclusively of those who have never been in California. There must be some one or more in it who has a thorough practical knowledge of the business of quartz-mining in this State. The information of others and theory, will not do, and capitalists should be careful how they invest their money, without being well satisfied that they are placing it in the hands of men whose practical experience is such as to warrant their putting machinery into operation. Men who are practical,—who may have worked the mines of Georgia and Virginia—but who have no experience in this country, will not do. The first effort, therefore, in the formation of these companies, should be to secure the ser-

vices of men who have been in the quartz-mines of this country, and worked them.

“ Having secured competent men to take charge of it, and procured suitable machinery in all respects, the next most important matter is its transportation to the mines. Hitherto those companies appear to have acted upon the supposition that all that was required was a sufficient amount of money to get their men and machinery to San Francisco ; and this has been the cause of failure in some instances. The cost of transportation of men and machinery to this place from the Atlantic is nothing, compared with the cost from here to the mines. A company, therefore, which sends out machinery, should have capital sufficient to set it in operation at the earliest practicable moment after its arrival. It may be said

that money can be procured here for that purpose upon machinery. So it can, at rates from five to ten per cent. per month—but capitalists at home, who have money to invest, do not feel disposed to pay such rates. If, therefore, they desire to see a company which they may send out here succeed, let them bear in mind that they must supply them liberally with means, to be used here. Why, it is not unfrequent for men to land right in our harbour without a dollar in their pockets, imagining, no doubt, that all they have to do, is to go out on some of the hills surrounding the city, and dig out what they want. Heretofore, some heavy capitalists in the Atlantic States appear to have acted in the same silly manner, by sending out companies of men, without means sufficient in their pockets to pay the lightering their machinery ashore.

“ We do not wish to hold out dazzling inducements to capitalists to embark in the quartz speculation, nor would we desire to discourage them. We are glad to see that companies are being organized, and we throw out the above suggestions for the benefit of those engaged in them. We are satisfied that the inducements to invest capital in quartz machinery and quartz mining operations, are greater than those offering in any other line of business in California. It wants experience, however, added to ample means, so that those who may be entrusted with the management here, shall not be cramped in the outset. The same general principles are applicable to, and should govern the formation of companies in California as in the Atlantic States.”

The English are making a great fuss with Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot; he

does not seem to get beyond mayors and corporations, however ; it would serve a patriot much better, if these bodies would give him the money a dinner costs them, and which they help him to eat : he gets only one portion, and the next day may go without even that.

Sat with St—y some time ; poor fellow ! he is fast going from this world ! Mr. P—there, an American gentleman, a great admirer of Kossuth, as of course, all Americans must be.

A boarding-house dinner to-day—all sorts of people, from all nations.

The night calm, and very lovely.

---

Still lovely weather. Attended service at Dr. V—'s church, American Episcopal. The services taken from the Church of England Prayer-book, with some desirable revisions, tending to remove repetitions,

as also to render it suitable to Republican institutions. The Doctor has some peculiarities — to-day, after the Communion Service, he advanced to the altar-rail, and lectured the people for leaving the church immediately the prayers are over. The fact is, the Doctor preaches unattractive sermons in English, with so strong a Belgian accent, that neither Englishman, Belgian, nor any one else can understand him.

Saw poor St—y again—evidently sinking; to-day he was sitting up; Mr. and Mrs. H—, English people, called on him, and took me to dine with them.

Sunday in San Francisco does not look like Sunday; the people, after church, going either to the race-course, or to the bull and bear-fight—the first not worth seeing at any time here; and the last is at best a brutally cruel exhibition, but

here there is a stupidity about the whole affair that utterly takes away all the interest some see in it—the bull never seems to think he is called upon to fight the bear, and the bear appears equally ready to be on friendly terms with the bull—one stands up quietly gazing about, the other lies down, both wondering, apparently, why they are put together. I never went to either, race or fight ; and so long as such things are allowed on Sundays, the day will not be much respected ; and we have the following events recorded, viz.—

“ **SERIOUS DIFFICULTY.**—A difficulty occurred on the race-course yesterday evening, in which a man named Edward Graves was supposed to be wounded. One Kirk was betting at Monte, when a dispute arose, pistols were drawn, and

Graves shot in the abdomen. Kirk has been arrested."

Cloudy at night.

---

A cloudy morning, after a rainy night. Went to see the machinery on the wharf at the north beach—the wharf appears in a very dilapidated state, scarcely fit to bear such heavy weights.

An Englishman just converted into an American enacts his new nationality awkwardly enough at first; one of these, wanting to sell me a steam-engine and boiler, declared it to be perfect without either safety-valve, or guage-cocks—but he had not brass enough to carry it out, and the attempt "caved in," — Anglice, failed.

An invitation to dine with Captain F——m, United States army—a boarding house dinner, served French fashion: no



one knows what he is eating, or what is to come next, and after one has eaten of a number of messes, then in comes a really good roasted joint, which one has no appetite to partake of. After dinner to the general drawing-room—no tea, a melancholy wait! sit five minutes, gentlemen to the saloons, ladies to their rooms, or to the balcony, if there is one over the street.

Judge H——m at dinner, a very pleasing man ; he is presiding over his court, not by election of the people, but by the appointment of his Government : it makes all the difference imaginable—he cares only for the cause before him ; the elected judge must look to what will please his electors.

The “ Union ” of the day gives a little insight into the habits of the Trinity society : from the quarrel to the blow,

“clinch” pistol or knife, there is but a short interval in these parts.

“Mr. John Tracy has given us some facts in relation to the stabbing of Forsyth by Asahel Brown, now under arrest in this city, which greatly lessens the guilt, if it does not altogether justify the course pursued by the latter. Mr. T. overheard the difficulty, which originated from a dispute at cards. Forsyth first struck Brown, when the latter clinched him, and inflicted the wound which caused the death of the former. Brown is represented to us by Mr. T. as being by no means a quarrelsome man ; and in the altercation which took place between the parties, he conversed in an ordinary tone of voice, and was apparently not disposed to become unnecessarily excited.”

The following *literal* summons was served upon an English gentleman, well

known in California as a traveller of enterprizing habits, intelligence, and good humour :—

“ BENJAMIN FROSBURN

*versus*

F——K M——TT.

“ The people of the stat of California to the Sheriff or any Consiable of Solano county Greeting you are Her by commanded to summons F——k M——tt to be and appear befor the under signed one of the justis of the piece of Solano County on the sixteenth day of January 1852 A.D. at my office in the city of Vallys at ten o'clock of said day to answer the compaind of Benjamin Frosburn for the sum of five hundred dollars otherwise judgement will be rendered against you By defalt given under my hand this thirteenth day of January A.D. 1852.

H. Hook, J. P.”

This is, as near as possible, a copy of Mr. Justice's signature; it is almost needless to observe that the whole thing was an attempt to cheat; the only part true was the fact of Mr. Hook being really a J. P.

---

A foggy morning, which soon changed to a lovely day. The winter of this country quite exceeds an English summer.

There is a practice here which the high house-rent has originated. A four or five-room house cannot be rented under 150 or 200 dollars per month unfurnished, so one person takes the house, and as many as can agree form a mess, and live together in it—this is generally the practice of the unmarried English gentlemen; we are now just breaking up such a mess, because the house is taken by others, so

we leave to-morrow, and have the horrors of a San Francisco table-d'hôte before us. Sat with St—y ; weaker and weaker, poor fellow !

Dined with Colonel and Mrs. W—k—m in “ Pleasant Valley ;” strangely named, being a small, sandy valley, between two sand-hills, which deprive the residents there of all view. Mrs. W. has a nicely laid-out garden—more comfort in this house than I have before met in any American residence. After dinner, the negro woman servant came in to ask, “ what matter with the moon ? ” we all went out to see, for we had forgotten that it was a total eclipse that night.

---

Again a lovely day—I am only waiting here for money from the board of directors—what tiresome work, where men are making it in all directions !

Sat with St—y some time—very ill ; he talks most affectionately of his two young daughters, as if he knew he should not see them again. A fine specimen of gold has been found. It is egg-shaped, rather flattened, and is intermixed with quartz, and from its appearance seems to be composed of about equal quantities of gold and quartz. It is perfectly smooth all over, caused undoubtedly by rolling in the river bed. It was found by the company on the bed of the river, and weighs seventy-three ounces and four pennyweights.

This company consisted of thirteen persons, who put in their flume this season, and in two weeks after its completion, took out 30,000 dollars, when they sold out for about 13,000.

Captain Cl—e asked me to stay with him at the North Beach—he is called the “ John Bull American,” having a jolly red face—at present he has charge of a

bonded warehouse, but he is a candidate for the appointment of a judge ; the elections are now in progress.

The Americans have a queer way of managing elections — the mass of the voters of the several parties meet, of course, separately ; they then discuss the merits of the candidates, and by a majority decide which shall be brought forward—that one is then put in nomination on the day of election against one of the opposite party ; no other candidate can therefore split the party vote. The people elect to every office, political, judicial, municipal, religious, &c., and often make a pretty mess of it.

---

A splendid day—here is a San Francisco winter ; the hills are now perfectly green with the young grass springing up, the trees and shrubs in full bud.

The machinery must be moved, and brought from North Beach to the bonded warehouse on Cunningham's wharf—so orders are given : this expense comes of not sending it out to arrive before the rains set in—heavy machinery cannot then cross the plains to the mountains.

There is a great contest about the site of the Capitol—Benicia, Vallejo, San Jose, and Sacramento, all bid for it—the Governor is ready to take the highest offer ; the Legislature has met, and is now sitting at Vallejo, but there is not sufficient accommodation, and seven or eight senators sleep in one room—they are paid sixteen dollars per diem, with travelling expenses, so the sessions are long. The shifting of the Capitol so often, gave rise to the following ballad, in which the old English style is not badly imitated :—



"Ytt was about a yeare ago,  
Alle yn the south countree  
A battle rose, alle where to knowe  
The capitolle sholde bee.

The lordlye barons alle dyd meete,  
A councyl for to holde ;  
The mudde yt dyd stycke out "a-feete,"  
And bytter was the colde.

Eache bolde baron felte sore and sadde,  
Yn fronte and reare and flanke,  
For "nary" bedde was too bee hadde  
Besydes the softe, softe planke.

The Earle of Greene reported brief,  
Wyth woefulle, dolefulle wynke,  
Thatt there was nothyng butt jerked beefe,  
And noe goode wyne toe drinke.

A fearfulle shoute did thence upryse  
Yn ymprecatyng hymns,  
And somme dyd kurse theyre stuppide eyes,  
And somme dyd kurse theyre lymmbes.

The battelle rayged fulle mayne a daye,  
And stallwarte was the fyghte,  
Tille alle the knightes of San José  
Were yn a pyteous plyghte.

A fearfulle rowe was thate, I weene,  
Whych rayged yn thatte valleye ;  
The myssion lorde dyd fyghte amaine  
Alle for his famillye.

Thenne uppe there started Vallejo,  
And soughte the barons bolde ;  
Sayde hee, " I've an broade landes, I trow,  
'Somme pummekyns' fulle of golde."

Then dyd hee calle hys lyttle knyghte,  
The brave Sirre Younge Frysbe,  
" I'll gyve toe thee a dowrye bryghte,  
And noblye marrye thee."

And uppe he further spoke and sayde—  
" So move the House, and, zounds !  
I'll gyve you broade—broade landes and  
breade ;  
Three hundredd thousand crownes."

Thenne toe the barons of the lande,  
    " I'll gyve some lottes toe ye,  
Yf you wyll promyse for toe stande  
    And brayvelye fyghte for me."

To manye an edittor, he toe,  
    Of lande gayve bounteouslye,  
And lottes in block, " 10,002,"  
    Thatte brayve knyghte gayve toe " we."

Syr Brodericke praysed that lyberal knyghte,  
    And sayde a prynce was he ;  
Syr Van declayred he with amyght  
    Thatt moved the House sholde be.

The representatives up stayrs—  
    They dyd applaude hym soe,  
Thatt they welle nygh fell unawares  
    Yntoe the roome belowe.

Thenne uppe Syr Tyngleye and hys menne,  
    And waxed all wrothe were theye,  
And sayde that theye wolde fyght amayne  
    For ever and a daye.

The menne of San José theye blaymed  
Those barons of the Stayte—  
Theyre Scryp theye sayed they would be d—  
Yf they'd negotyate.

For San José, a ladye gaye,  
A noble syght toe see,  
Shee boldlye myngled in the fraye,  
And foughte incessantlye.

Sayde toe a baron stoute and owlde,  
“ I have a valyante mind  
Toe swappe youe for a donkeye bolde, '  
*Thenne cutte the donkey's wynde.*”

Brave Campbell sayd wyth knyghtlye mien,  
Thate yf theye *there* abode,  
He'd gyve them houses, fields soe greene,  
And build a rayl—raylroad.

A puissant knyghte was Vallejo,  
And valiant dyd he fyght ;  
The House was ordered for toe goe  
Untoe the Napa syte.

Yt was nygh toe the Mare Island  
The House atte lengthe dyd reste,  
Butte soone, alas ! McDougal's hande  
Hadde founde a mare's neste.

The castle leaked amayne—heygh ho!—  
Thee workmenne theye dyd stoppe,  
And nobodye but Vallejo  
Wold ary redde tpype uppe.

Thenne up McDougal spake, wyth nowee,  
“ Mye barons bold thys daye,  
We'll packe oure trappes and shyfte the House  
Agayne to San José.”

And thenne Syr Campbelle built hys road ;  
And cryed out myght and mayne,  
“ Thatt that's the Capitalle abode,  
And shalle nott moove agayne.”

MORAL.

Nowe all ye merrye gentlemenne—  
An ye'd nor sighe nor weepe,  
Take warning by McDougal's menne,  
And looke before you leape.

The steamer from St. Juan del Suo came in ; this is the line which crosses Nicaragua from Grey Town, in opposition to the Panama route. A beautiful night.

---

Fine northerly breeze, and a bright, beautiful day. Saw St—y ; his state is alarming ; worried in his mercantile affairs, and sinking under his illness—he cannot last long.

By the “Independance” steamer, news has arrived from Nicaragua, that the British ship-of-war “Express” has fired at the American steamer “Prometheus,” with passengers for California ; it is alleged the latter would not pay the harbour-dues—very consistent. What does the Californian American ever pay till he is forced to do so ? The papers here are very grand on the occasion, and look forward to a war in consequence as certain ; and we

have a detail of the valiant deeds of the Taylors, Twiggs, Wools, and other great transatlantic warriors of Mexican renown.

From parties who have just returned from a tour of exploration, we learn that gold has been found near Saddle mountain, which is plainly seen from almost any point near the mouth of the Columbia river, it being about fifty miles south-east of Astoria. These gentlemen report the quartz-rock to be abundant in that region, as well as the black sand, and other indications of gold. Several fine specimens were found, and brought to Astoria by Mr. Pease, the sheriff of Clatsop county, and other gentlemen. We learn also that gold has been found north of Puget's Sound, on the Coast Range, in several places, and that parties are now fitting out for mining operations in that region.

It is curious to see how these people cut through and carry away the enormous sand-hills surrounding the town, for the purpose of making some streets, and grading others; the sand so carried away is used to fill up within the piles which have been driven in to build upon, the limits of the city being yet far in the sea; in this manner the sea has already been bayed back upwards of five hundred yards, for a space of at least a mile and a half. All this has been built upon—there are five long wharves, extensive brick warehouses, theatres, &c., where, two years ago, the tide flowed unobstructedly. This is done on the chance of success; no matter if they fail!

---

The same fine weather. In the night the "Golden-gate" steamer came in from Panama, with European and Atlantic



mails—letters from the Board tell me the shares have been sold, and that they have enough money to begin with—so I suppose some will be sent here, but nothing can now be done till the spring.

The following has appeared in the papers ; it must be understood that the “ trial ” was conducted by the mining-population of the district, who on such occasions assume judicial power—and also admitted that they generally discover a full sense of the equity of the case, but none of law :—

“ ACQUITTAL OF JUDGE SMITH.—We are informed that Judge Smith, of Calaveras County, who shot Col. Collier a few days since, while engaged in a personal altercation, has since had a trial, and been honourably discharged. The jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.”

Some more of the "richest" mines in California offered to me; huge pieces of quartz exhibited, which are declared to be but a sample of the whole; the gold is seen, of course, all over these portions; this game, however, will not do now.

Dined to-day with an American family, at their own house—we had a roast duck and oyster-pie, to be eaten together; after that had been accomplished, I had put on my plate, at the same time, gooseberry-tart, cheese, and preserved ginger. How very strange this seems to us, who see no reason for being in a hurry about such matters.

---

The most lovely weather continues; the rains generally are heavy in November and December; January, and the early part of February, delightful; then more or less rain till April; afterwards,

almost incessant sun and heat : the early rains, however, often render the plains quite impassable.

The Governor of the State and Mr. Mac D—, editor of the "Piccayune" newspaper, fight a duel! Editor scratched in the finger, and they leave the ground. "Liberty and Equality" seem to render people holding high office very regardless of the dignity we attach to offices of such a character; a governor, or other high officer with us, would never insult those over whom he ruled, nor could he be insulted by them, if he conducted himself.

A letter from the Board, directed to draw for money, but no letter of credit sent! Who here knows anything about the — Company in England? Of course I can get no money on a bill so drawn, and am, therefore, no better off than before.

Mr. Moffat and Dr. W. Rutherford have a scheme for searching the river San Joachim for gold, by means of a diving-bell ; it is known that the native Indians dive to its bottom, and bring up portions of black sand, which is rich in fine gold ; the scheme is not unlikely to pay, if undertaken ; but so much gold can be obtained without going under water for it, that I doubt the probability of their getting any one to engage with them.

## CHAPTER II.

## TO SACRAMENTO.

WEATHER wonderfully fine—preparing to go up to Marysville—yesterday evening met my friend Cl—e, of the North Beach ; he asked me if I would dine with a man who carried his ham home for dinner himself? I said, “No ; but I will with the man who lets me help him carry it ;” so I put my stick through the string at the end, Cl—e took one end, and I the other, in which manner we walked home. No one thinks anything of this ; if you

buy from a shop, you must carry it home yourself, or pay a dollar or two for having it carried. A man would not sell me a trunk, not a large one, because I required him to send it not more than a hundred yards.

Called to say farewell to poor St—y; he is sinking now very fast, and we shall, I fear, meet no more; he is a kind-hearted, hospitable, honourable man.

At four P.M. on board the “New World” steamer for Sacramento, en route to the mountains. A great crowd on board, smoking and spitting everywhere—one cannot walk in the saloon without kicking over “spittoons,” as the receiver is called, the very sight of which invites a discharge from an American mouth. Supper on board—tea, coffee, cakes and bread; a steak at one end of the table, innumerable small dishes up and down

the sides, holding—some one meat-chop, some a small fish each, a perch for instance, others contain one slice of ham, others again two baked potatoes, and so on; these dishes are cleared with a very natural rapidity, and the less energetic gentlemen must be contented with bread and butter; for this, one dollar and a half is paid.

At Sacramento by two o'clock A.M., the distance being about one hundred and thirty miles. Slept at the "Orleans" hotel.

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Still beautiful weather. This city, like almost all American cities, is laid out in long broad streets, at right angles. I like the plan very much; the streets here running East and West, are named from the letters of the Alphabet, those running North and South are numbered. I asked for a person's house, and was told that

I should find it in "fourth upon A;" puzzling enough to a stranger. Awnings during the hot weather are extended from every house to the side of the plank footway, about eight or nine feet wide; but these said footways are shockingly blocked up with boxes, casks, in short, merchandise of every kind, to the great annoyance of the passers-by. This is a "free country," and every man pleases himself. The houses are as yet nearly all built of wood—one day a fire will show the advantage of brick; the city contains about twelve thousand inhabitants, of all countries; the German Jew preponderates.

The drinking and gambling saloons abound; the first holds its ascendancy, the latter are certainly retrograding. The hotels are extremely bad, the bed-rooms nearly all two beds in them; in many, a



total absence of any furniture necessary for the night, and none other, beyond a jug of water and a basin, with a towel fourteen inches square—I measured the towel in my room. For this two dollars are charged; but if you object to have any one in the room with you, four dollars must be paid—two for the bed you use, two for the bed you do not use; the cooking and attendance at table are as bad as may be; for every meal one dollar is charged, but anything beyond the most common fare is charged extra—an egg for breakfast is extra, and costs half-a-dollar, or 2s. 1d. sterling. There are some chapels here, which different persuasions have built; two iron founderies, one of them, Mr. Lambard's, does the work entrusted to him in a very faithful manner.

The situation of the town is so low,

that to keep the river out in winter, the people have raised a dyke twelve feet thick, and some miles in length. Two large steam-boats leave for San Francisco daily.

Met my old acquaintances, G—t and Judge W—h, at the Orleans hotel, and went with them, at ten o'clock, in a spring waggon to see the quartz-crushing mills, put up by G—t and Mr. R—d, near Auburn; the mill is about thirty-five miles from Sacramento. A hard road, thanks to the long succession of dry weather; G—t drove, and being above common prejudices, he rattled over every rock and tree-stump he could find. We got there safely, and then learned from him, that he had never driven any horses before.

The mill is beautifully put up, but they fail to crush enough quartz in the day

to make it remunerative ; the stamper will not pulverise, under the best management, more than one ton and a half per diem—not enough, where labour is five dollars a day, mechanics seven and eight ; they use also the shaking-table to amalgamate upon ; they might as well use their hands. I saw the lode ; it had shafts sunk upon it for a mill, was perfectly perpendicular in the ground, and between three and four feet thick. Masters and men all live together, republican fashion. G—t and R—y—d conduct the establishment, so far as the mill is concerned. The quartz I do not like—it is too clear and flinty, very hard ; colour, a darkish watery brown, with a reddish tinge in it. They have thirty-six stamps, with a forty-horse power, but cannot pulverise much more than twenty tons per diem, and as yet have not got more than thirty-

two dollars in twenty-four hours. I do not think they have selected good quartz ; but their loss in the process of amalgamation is, I am certain, large.

It is a pleasure to go into R—y—d's house this morning, Sunday, January 18. At breakfast, it was difficult to say which was the whitest, the table, the cloth, or the floor of the room ; the cause of this is to be found in his having a respectable English housekeeper to manage the interior, to whom he pays one hundred dollars per month wages, with board ; this is lower than these " helps " generally ask and have.

The site of the establishment is attractive ; scarcely off the plain, it is easy of access, the mountains rise loftily behind, at a few miles' distance ; where they live the oak and pine are in abundance, together with a variety of flowering shrubs ;

a winter stream only supplies the mill ; water for the winter only, and bad quartz, will never do in California.

Drove back to Sacramento — found three young gentlemen here, whom I formerly knew in an English colony, where their fathers held high positions. They came to dig for gold, but soon found they were unequal to the labour ; men who have been bred to handle pens, will not do much with the pick and shovel. One of them had hired himself to a gardener, the other two had engaged in one of the hotels, as waiters ; they each got five dollars per day, with board, and mean to save money, and get home again ; the master says, they are his most confidential “ helps.”

The Legislature has been moved here ; the members could not stand seven and eight in a bed-room, at Valleys ; I went

to hear the debate—it was upon the appointment of a State printer; all these matters are of consequence, because each member has a man ready for the place; this is one of the blessings of giving the legislation the nomination of the officer—these petty matters consume days. The Speaker was lounging in his chair; before him was a wash-hand jug of water, and three glasses, and a dirtily-dressed boy sat drumming with his heels, in a velvet-cushioned chair—I was informed that he was the page!

Dined with Mr. and Mrs. C—l by invitation—the dinner half in English fashion, half American; the Californian American “dessert” is a mixture of confectionery, fruit, cheese, and preserves. As soon as the dinner is over, you go away; you are asked to eat only; the

delight of an English dinner-party, and evening afterwards, is unknown to the Californian American ; he is seldom with his family there.

## CHAPTER III.

## TO MARYSVILLE.

THE same lovely weather continues. Before I left Sacramento, I visited Mr. Trask, and saw his collection of Californian minerals; it forms a very curious assemblage, and is valuable as a beginning; Mr. Trask is indefatigable in his pursuit of this branch of inquiry, and so far he has succeeded well.

At seven A.M. on board the steamer "Urilda," and away to Marysville. This is one of a number of small steamers that



traverse the Sacramento, and rivers above Sacramento, daily ; they carry, exclusive of their machinery, from eighty to one hundred tons of merchandise, besides passengers and their baggage ; yet they pass over the shallow rapids frequent in the rivers, especially in the Feather river to Maryville, where there is not more than three feet of water for them ; the distance is about seventy-six miles, and the passage is made generally under nine hours.

There is nothing striking in the scenery of either the Sacramento or Feather rivers ; the first, after leaving Benicia, passes through some low, flat, marshy country, till it comes within about sixty miles of the city, then the banks are prettily covered with oak and maple trees, round which the wild grape-vine climbs, and this continues up the Feather river

to Marysville. Arrived there at three P.M., after having been swept two or three times amongst the branches of the trees by the current.

Met my American friends, Mr. and Mrs. P—n, who propose going to the mountains to-morrow with me ; he goes to show me a quartz-lode, he wishes me to work for him and his partners ; it is called the Keystone.

Called on Dr. and Mrs. B—tt in the evening, and had tea with them ; it is a relief to meet such society, desirable at all times, but infinitely so, after having been exposed for months to the boorish, though honest inhabitants of the wild, and what is worse, the pretensions of shopkeepers, who, by sudden circumstances, have arrived at a wealthy position ; with the Dr. and Mrs. B—tt we are with an English gentleman, and an English lady,

in the most extensive sense of the term.

This city, as well as Sacramento, has a mayor and corporation; the population exceeds five thousand; it has an iron-foundry, theatre, jail, and sundry places of worship, according to the persuasions settled here; there are also two banks, to which the miners bring their gold to be exchanged for coin; the daily receipt of one of these banks varied from thirteen thousand to seventeen thousand dollars—I have known it take forty thousand in one day; the gold of the mines, or “diggings,” sells for seventeen dollars thirty cents per ounce, to the Californian buyer of it.

Marysville is situated at the junction of the rivers Feather and Yuba, both large streams, merging their united waters in the Sacramento, about forty miles be-

low ; it is at the head of the navigation for steamers in this direction, and is the depôt from which the more northern mining districts, for some hundred miles, are supplied with all the necessaries of life, which are conveyed on mules into the mountain region, which commences about fifteen miles from the city. From the lowness of the ground surrounding the place, and from the contiguity of the rivers, this vicinity is rendered unhealthy during the extreme heat of the dry season, when the temperature often reaches one hundred and ten degrees in the shade.

The steamers derive a very profitable traffic between Sacramento and Marysville, the freight being from place to place twenty dollars per ton, though from San Francisco to Sacramento, double the distance, the freight is but

eight dollars per ton ; the charge for a passage between the last-named places is ten dollars, and five dollars in addition, if you take a "state-room" to yourself, as the space holding two beds is termed, it being about six feet by four.

There are "stages," as covered wagons are called, traversing the country for more than a hundred miles into the mountains ; they are, however, most comfortless conveyances ; when I have travelled by one, I will mention it more particularly.

## CHAPTER IV.

## TO THE KEYSTONE.

CONTINUATION of fine weather. Loading a waggon for the Keystone — all manner of things in it, from a grid-iron to a four-post bedstead and its furniture.

Numbers of Indians prowl about Marysville—they are a very low grade of the human species ; their object in sauntering about the streets is to pick up any old thrown-away clothing, of which there is a strange quantity lying about ; it arises

from the miner throwing off all his mining apparel when he is going to leave for the Atlantic States, and fitting himself up with other things. I have often met a man so changed that I did not know him. In the mountains the woollen frock, a three or four years' beard, hair, and moustache are popular—all these give way to superfine cloth, a crop and shave.

At noon left Marysville with Mr. and Mrs. P—n, and reached Hickman's ranche (the general name now for a house of accommodation for travellers) at dusk. Sat in the kitchen to warm ourselves—two of the ugliest women in "all creation here, I guess"—the supper ready, stewed tripe and pork chops ; nothing else but bread and, thank Heaven ! some good fresh butter. Tripe and pork ! what a combination of nauseous horrors !—Went to bed ; one long room held about

twenty of us, here and there two in a bed. I was single—the Californian Americans say the Britishers don't make "kinder sociable" bedfellows.

I had some linen washed in Sacramento, and wanting a change, looked at it here. I found about half of it to be mine, the other half belonged to anybody—it had done hard service to whomsoever it belonged. If you complain, the "lady" or "gentleman" who washed for you, "guesses" the "fixings" have gone somewhere else, but you have got your number; you pay five dollars per dozen for washing.

There is an isolated range of mountains seven or eight miles from Marysville, called the "Buttes;" the word is pronounced "Bute," meaning a steep, or high bluff, separating from, or abruptly ending other mountains. I have seen



lands of all shapes, in every climate under the sun, but I never have seen any in outline so inconceivably beautiful as are the buttes ; they rise in the centre of a vast plain as abruptly as a volcanic island towers above the ocean.

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Two days ago, Mr. and Mrs. P—n and myself rose at daylight at Hickman's ranche—he and I made our toilet on a bench outside the door, where there was a tin wash-hand basin, which was in general demand—we came about the tenth and eleventh on the roaster. A bit of soap about the size of a shilling was all we could in that way get, no towel, so we used our handkerchiefs—a piece of a looking-glass lingered in an old frame, which, with a veteran hair-brush, hung at the bar of the ranche, inside—the

brush was used by all the travellers who liked it, and it seemed that squeamish Britishers only repudiated its services. I have seen an American stand before such a piece of glass, brush his hair in every imaginable shape, smooth it with his hand, and turn himself in every attitude for ten minutes at a time, then go away with a perfect conviction of his unquestionable attractions, and take a "brandy-smash, ginsling, or cock-tail;" he has then properly acquitted himself.

We started our horses about seven o'clock; a rather raw, foggy morning, "came near" raining—it was about eleven o'clock when we reached almost the summit of the range in which the Keystone lode is; the fog suddenly cleared off, and the sun brilliantly broke forth; our elevation was about three thousand feet, and we had the whole mountain range un-

veiled around us ; the fog still obscured the vale from sight, but about two-thirds of the beautiful, the sublime Buttes seemed to float upon a sea of frosted silver, for the sun shone upon the upper surface of the fog, and to that can I only compare the phenomenon I saw. The whole surface was white and soft, intensely glittering in the rays of the sun, the base of the Buttes and the entire plain completely concealed, while the lofty outline, and two thirds of the range, were grandly and minutely defined—it looked like an enchanted island. I only knew one in California, whose mind justly appreciated the beauty of the Buttes ; how ardently I wished that one could have seen this occurrence ; the rich grandeur of nature never escaped that mind.

At three P.M. we arrived at the Keystone ; found my companion M—e all well, and

in the clapboard house, recently built for us—Mr. and Mrs. P—n in a small house near us.

The ride is tiresome from Hickman's ranche, about twenty-two miles, ascending the whole way ; the mountains are covered, but not very densely, with oak first, and as you gain a higher elevation, the pine and redwood, a species of cedar are frequent ; these make admirable planks. The oak is very dry and brittle, chiefly fit for fuel ; made a large fire in an English-shaped fire-place with large oak logs—had some tea, and went to bed rather ready for it.

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A lovely morning succeeded ; M—e and myself had no servant, because our exchequer was too low to afford one, though we were expected to begin mining

and produce gold ; so we cut wood for the fire, and having some beef, cooked a steak, which, with tea, and bread and butter, made a good breakfast ; M—e beat me “into a cocked hat” (as Yankee phraseology has it) at cooking and baking, so he did all that, and I washed, and put away the dishes, &c. Our house consisted of one room, eighteen feet by twelve—the clapboards did not fit closely, so we had daylight and wind through the openings ; the roof was put up well, though in heavy rain after, some came through—the whole expense of the building came to about two hundred and fifty dollars, or about fifty pounds.

After breakfast we cut an oak tree down for fuel—tough work, for the axe was blunt ; then we brought a spring from the hill-side to our door, next we arranged the interior of our house, and

then, having hired a labourer to dig a foundation for a small engine and boiler, we set him at work, the engineer being down in ague and fever.

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Still fine weather—the engineer is just well enough to show the way he wants the space dug out for the engine foundation—crushed up a few pounds of the quartz ; it yielded well, the gold is beautifully bright, and extremely fine.

M—e and myself then arranged, or as the Americans say, “fixed up” our room—I chose a corner for an iron bedstead—he preferred a Spanish hammock which occupied one side of the place. We had a rickety table, on which at night an oil lamp, taken from a lanthorn, was elevated upon a basin turned up, two very bad stools, the four legs of which

turned inwards, instead of outwards, so the least weight on either end caused them to tip up. M—e was the amateur carpenter—above, some planks were laid across the beams, and served for a store room, reached by a short ladder—rifles and pistols were by our bedsides, and in their several stations were tea-kettles, saucepans, plates, cups and saucers, buckets, beef, hams, flour, bread, wine, &c.—the whole had much of the Robinson Crusoe appearance.

The four or five shantys which had been raised, were by acclamation of the population, numbering at least seven, proclaimed to be “Carrysville,” in honour of Mrs. P—n, whose name was Caroline.

Mr. M—t—d came from Forbes town to see us—he slept on a canvas tent, folded up, before some blazing logs.

The next morning the engineer was at

work—left him and M—e to get the small steam-engine put up, and I got ready to go next day on the way to Placerville to see some lodes there.



## CHAPTER V.

## TO PLACERVILLE.

RAIN all night ; then fine again. At daylight I mounted a horse, which P—n lent me to ride as far as Marysville, on my way to Placerville. In the earlier period of the gold fever of California, which only broke violently out in 1849, this town bore the inviting name of Hangtown, from the fact of its being the first place in American California where Judge Lynch commenced his official duties, and hung a thief. Since that time,

a refinement of feeling has suggested the change to Placerville, from the rich "diggings" found there.

The rain has rendered the road nearly impassable across the plain, and in coming to a swampy-looking spot, I reined up my horse for a minute, to consider the case. I gently urged the animal on—the poor creature obeyed, put his nose nearly to the ground, and his feet tenderly forward; we entered the water, knee-deep, there were, at least, twenty yards of it to cross; a little unevenness here and there; now close to the opposite edge—one step more, down went the horse to the girths, rolled over on one side, and lodged me in the mud and water—it was very soft, for putting one arm out to bear myself up, it sunk to the elbow; dusk had set in, and we were floundering hopelessly in the slough. I had just got myself clear of the horse, but

to get the horse as clear of the mud was the matter. A good-tempered American just then came up, and while I was endeavouring to relieve the animal, he said, " Wall, stranger, I guess you're kinder mired down." I agreed in his opinion, when he dismounted, waded knee-deep into the mud-hole, and combining our strength, we got the horse out. This kindheartedness I never knew to leave the true native American miner of California ; they are benevolent and generous, sudden in action, and excitable as they may be in temper.

After this I got safely to Marysville, at half-past seven, and had a delightful evening with Dr. and Mrs. B—tt.

Heard of the death of my kind friend St—y ; he will be long mourned. Found letters from my family waiting for me.

Thursday I went on to Sacramento to

meet my Hebrew, the agent for the Placerville quartz property—at the Orleans hotel I met him, and agreed to leave with him by the stage, at seven o'clock.

They have a curious practice with the stages here ; it takes as many as like to enter it, or as it can, from the hotel whence it starts ; if full, it goes on its way ; if not, it takes a cruise round the town, the driver exclaiming, at intervals, in his highest tone, “ Here’s your stage to Placerville in seven hours ;” and in order to decide a lingerer, he looks archly at him, clasps the “ lines,” Anglicè “ reins,” holds up his whip, and energetically screams out, “ Only one seat, and all aboard for Placerville.” When having caught his man, he makes his round for more, and having made you well acquainted with the streets, at last he really takes his departure.

The stage had to encounter some very soft places frequently, and two or three times "came near to miring." The last twenty miles are very mountainous, the road often so much on the incline, that the driver calls out, "Sit up to windward," and every one scrambles to the high side of the vehicle ; I have seen a wheel actually off the ground, and brought to it again by "sitting to windward ;" the driver lighting his cigar at the time.

On the road to Placerville, several very rich "placeros," or "diggings" are passed ; they begin just as the road enters the mountains. Carson's ravine first presents its riches ; then Mud, Diamond-springs, and Coon-hollow, an abbreviation of Racoon ; at Carson's, the gold is coarse, and is caught by running the water and earth through a long trough,

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with pieces nailed across it on the inside, forming elevated edges; at stated distances, these edges arrest the heavier substances, but the lighter are washed away; the gold here is taken from a ravine.

At Mud and Diamond-springs the very surface-earth gives large quantities of gold; it is raked up in ridges, every man's claim being separated from his neighbour's by a narrow path, such as divides garden-beds of vegetables. When the rain comes, it is washed in rockers, toms, sluices, and every imaginable contrivance for saving the metal; a pan of this will yield ten and a half cents, or five-pence halfpenny; many hundred pans are washed by one rocker, and many more than that by each other contrivance in one day.

At Placerville by four P.M., my Hebrew

put me up in his shop ; he got dinner ready, beef-steak and coffee ; our plates were laid on the counter, amongst woollen frocks, shirts, stockings, boots, trousers, jewelry, &c. ; we afterwards slept in the shop. I had a comfortable corner, my Hebrew opposite to me. Breakfasted next morning at the counter again.

Then to see the lodes, one close to the town ; a large lode, apparently very good ; the quartz all yielded well, but not opened enough to decide upon its extent ; very hard, much iron in it. The other lode is soft, delicate quartz, and yields a fair amount of very fine, bright gold. Neither lode is sufficiently opened to judge of the extent.

## CHAPTER VI.

## FEBRUARY.—PLACERVILLE.

A SHARP white frost, succeeded by a very warm day. Placerville is built entirely of wood; like all these towns, its existence depends altogether upon the continuance of the yield in the diggings near; the population amounts, including that of the surrounding miners, to upwards of three thousand. It boasts a dissolute, swearing community; and though the quartz appears to be good, that will scarcely compensate for these staring disqualifications.



The American from the "backwoods" cannot feel that he is a bore to any one; on the contrary, he thinks he can entertain him by a long history of his own biography, especially that part of it which has been subjected to disease of any kind; this disposition to speak of self pervades even better classes than the backwoodsman, in the United States. Breakfasted on the counter.

The "special message" of the new Governor, Mr. B—r, appeared in the paper of to-day. A comprehensive, plausible paper enough; meaning, of course, nothing, like all such papers.

"Colonel" W—r elected "Senator for Congress;" he represents the democratic party, a party which one day will shiver the bonds that now hold together a magnificent republic.

The "Daily Alta California" of this

day has in it the trial of a man who deliberately shot another dead; and of another, who rushed into the bar-room of a saloon, and laid open a man's throat who was standing there; both, of course, were justified in the judgment of a jury, which never looks to the law, but only to the question touching the apparent deserts of the injured party. It is not whether he killed a man or did not; it is whether they think he had a right to kill, or had not! "It is a great country."

Went to see "'Coon-hollow." The amount of labour here is wonderful; the "hollow" much resembles in size and shape the "Devil's Punch-bowl" in Hampshire (England); the hollow itself is completely dug over to the depth of several feet, and the surrounding hills are perforated up and down their sides, giving them the appearance of large pigeon-

houses so far. The earth here is very largely filled with extremely fine gold ; it still continues to yield a rich return, nevertheless very few of the great number of Americans who work in these or any other of the "diggings," save any money of consequence ; they either spend it in the gambling or drinking saloon, or otherwise lose it in some speculative enterprise. No American can quietly enjoy his earnings in the calm society of his family—he must have excitement, even if it is the excitement of ruin, for with him depression is unconstitutional ; if he is asked why he does not save for his children ? he replies, " They must do as I have done—push through the world ;" so the father has often been the master of millions, only to see his son drive a mule-team. The line of any family in the United States is scarcely, if at all,

discernible, after three or four generations.

Left Placerville by the stage for Sacramento by another road; it was bad enough, rattling over rocks, stumps, and every road obstruction which the enterprise of a Yankee driver, and physical endurance of his passengers could surmount. The cry of "Sit to windward," often was very proper, as the vehicle seemed ready to slide from the inclined plane into the ravine below; as we went along, the thing bumped over a ditch which brings the water from Weber-creek, a distance of fourteen miles. This water is brought to supply the wants of the miners, who otherwise could not wash the earth and get the gold from it; they each have a hose, or spout, to convey the water to their particular position, and pay so much an inch per diem for it; frequently

a dollar an inch is charged, never less than half-a-dollar ; and this will be the most lucrative of all speculations, so long as the "diggings" shall last. This branch of gain is so good, that the people here are talking of bringing a part of the American river in ; if so, it will be brought round the mountains, a distance of thirty-two miles. Water has been brought in California over more difficult ground ; indeed, the Americans handle these large streams pretty much as easily as a lady handles the tea-pot at the breakfast-table. As the vehicle rattled along, one wheel struck an oak tree, and bent the hinder axle-tree—a trifle—on we go ; the road very heavy now, we have reached the plains. In Sacramento by half-past three. Hot bath, clean clothes, and dinner.

Invited by Mr. C—l to attend an even-

ing party dansante. Went, of course, in order to see the élite of Sacramento; the rooms could fairly claim two or three attractive faces, but the American ladies are wanting in figure; they too much resemble the mould of their clipper-ships, very straight and flat lines. They dance polkas and quadrilles, the ladies calling across the set to those opposite; loud laughter when anything witty was said; and romping rather than dancing. It reminded me of a servants' new-year's merry-making in England.

Every American is a politician. Here I find them mad about the affair of the British ship "Express" firing at the "Prometheus." I went to a hardware shop for some article, and the man no sooner recognised my nationality, than he said, "Woll, Mister, your Queen is bound to send that 'Express' captain

away, I guess." I asked for what I wanted. He continued, "If she don't, our President have got to take Canada, sure;" continuing to state my wants, instead of my views of the "Express" case, he turned me over, as hopeless, to his foreman, who evidently felt more about dollars and cents, than of the attack upon the "glorious stars and stripes" on board the "Prometheus."

Louis Napoleon has given great offence to the American people, by becoming an emperor; they are "riled" at France throwing off the rough coat of a Republic in exchange for the velvet of a Monarchy.

Another select party this evening; everything as before, excepting that one "gentleman" there had shot the husband of his present wife, deliberately, one day. Such people are well received in California!

Walked with Mr. B—e to see the farm he is fencing in, and then to the cholera country—that disease, for a short period, was a dreadful scourge here.

The river steamers again in opposition ; this is done only to force the richer to buy off the poorer ; but the cry is, “ No monopoly, and low fares.” Each party employs “ runners,” as they call the men who stand still, and mutually abuse each other’s steamer ; if they are to be believed, the “ boilers are all bursting,” the “ vessels rotten,” and the “ beds full of vermin.”

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A brilliant morning, cold north wind.

At seven, on board a small steamer, the “ Fashion,” going to Marysville. A monstrous dirty and bad boat. When near Marysville, the steam escaped out of the



boiler so much, that the vessel was stuck into the bushes till the boiler was cobbled up, when we went slowly on to Marysville. Got there at a late hour; found letters from home, none from the directors.

Two events have occurred this day, namely, the election of a judge, and the arrival of a huge church-bell from New York. The winning electors are celebrating their victory by marching after a drum and fife into every drinking saloon; and the reverend functionaries of the church to which the bell has been sent, are furiously ringing it in unison with the discharge of fire-arms around. Passed the evening with Dr. and Mrs. B—tt, a real pleasure.

From the San Francisco papers we learn that a man had seduced the daughter of a woman residing there. He came one day to call on the mother, by invita-

tion ; she asked him if he intended to marry her daughter ? He evaded the question ; upon which she instantly shot him. He lingered a few days, but just before he died he married the girl in the presence of the mother, who appeared, as the newspapers say, “ affected considerable.” The murderess was never called to account for this, but walked about the streets as if she had performed an exemplary duty.

I am at the Tremont hotel, in Marysville ; the ninth of February, and the sun is so powerfully shining on the thick plank roof and walls, that I am obliged to sit with the door and window open.

The day, Sunday, has begun by a crowd of idle Americans, grown-up young men, amusing themselves by tying tin pots to the tails of several dogs, and then frightening them away, hooting after

them. A mayor and corporation reside in this town, but all they do is to institute and collect taxes ; they have not sufficient moral courage to prevent the enlightened citizens from worrying dogs on Sunday.

In the evening, billiard rooms and gambling saloons in "full blast" — in the former, those not playing line the benches on each side the tables, and from thence completely saturate the floor with the tobacco-juice which they discharge upon it: they are shocking dirty citizens.

Passed the evening with Dr. and Mrs. B—tt, which compensated for the outside nuisances.

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Still lovely weather — after breakfast got P—n's horse and left for the Key-stone. Travelled by the road on the

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bank of the Feather river, good and free from mud-holes. On this river, there are now many farms fenced in and ploughed; the soil just here is very fertile—not so on the plains, there it is generally very gravelly. I conversed with many of the farmers; they every one would sell, wanting to go to the diggings; the farm does not produce fast enough; and though the diggings may not, yet there is the daily excitement so much desired by the American. About fifteen miles from Marysville, I rejoined the usual road to the Keystone. Got as far as the Honeut ranche, where I stopped for the night; put a mattress on two benches, close by the stove, and slept comfortably—a shocking cold in my head, feverish, &c. Nevertheless, the next morning I got up, having derived apparently much benefit from

being half-baked by the heat of the stove all night. Breakfasted, and on horseback for the Keystone—in this climate during the fine weather of winter, or in the cool of the autumn and spring, a ride of fifty miles is scarcely felt. On my way I turned off to Natchez, a small, dirty place, shantys and tents, with the American flag flying in half-a-dozen places—if there were but a pig-stye, I believe the national flag would be hoisted over it. There have been good “diggings” at Natchez, and it once boasted its gambling and drinking saloons. Now it has gone the way of all these locations as soon as the gold-washers have left the ground. A few stragglers, contented to get three dollors per diem, remain.

Went on to Hansonville, to see the quartz mill erected there, by Colonel

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H—n. Colonels, and other military designations, so often appear, that the phenomena should be explained. When any person is elected to be the Governor of a State, in the United States, he can appoint within his government generals of militia, and four “aids” for himself; these generals and “aids” he selects from the population of the state; the generals rank as such; the “aids” have the rank of “colonels of cavalry” in the United States army. Having once borne the title they always retain it; if one resigns, another general or colonel is created; majors and captains also abound; they are militiamen, ex-captains of steamers, coasters, river barges, &c. It is no uncommon occurrence to see a gallant general or colonel advocating, as a barrister, the case of some client, before the judges of the courts.

The colonel's crushing mill is apparently tolerably well put together, but it is, I think, placed too near the stream of the Honeut, which rises high, and is very rapid in the wet season, as all these mountain streams are ; I should fear the consequences of a flood ; it is a water-mill, the wheel eighteen feet diameter, four feet in breadth, nine stamps, three hundred pounds each. The mill and quartz were for sale, and the latter, of course, was something superlatively good ; everything is for sale when an American is the owner—he looks for a “trade” with every one.

Having dined with the “colonel,” I proceeded on by the Indian trail to the Keystone. Upon the summit of a high mountain, I suddenly met a man traveling with English and American newspapers for sale ; probably where never

before they had reached ; I bought an " Illustrated London News," "The Times" and " New York Tribune" of late dates. The first of these papers is very eagerly bought throughout California, and varying in price from fifty cents to a dollar.

Got to the Keystone at four in the afternoon. H—y had arrived, having resigned his situation, which he held under a market gardener near Sacramento ; he had not received remittances which had been forwarded, and came " very near starving," for his employer did not pay him. I had known his family well in a British colony.

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At the Keystone ; a lovely morning. Neither M—e nor H—y being returned, I hunted up the commissariat stores, laid the breakfast things, tried to cut a beef-



steak, knife too blunt, so turned to the remains of a ham, and had breakfast, of fried slices from it, and two roasted potatoes.

The engineer is putting up the small engine I bought, in hopes of doing some little during the period that must elapse before the other can arrive ; at all events, we can test the Keystone lode. He says that he hopes the "trap" will start next week—that it can not, for many necessary things are not here yet ; he is just come to me with an ague fit threatening—gave him some medicine for the night, and an enlarged dose of castor oil, because, on entering my room, he spat his tobacco on my clean boards. M—e and H—y came home.

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The mornings begin to threaten rain again. M—e and H—y got the breakfast

ready; beefsteak, fried ham, potatoes, bread made by M—e, and tea—no milk within miles of us.

Engineer at work again — complained of the castor oil, told him why he got such a dose. M—tt—d came from Forbes town, to show me a quartz lode — it is scarcely visible. He dined and went back again.

H—y cuts firewood for four dollars per load. P—n has an attack of erysipelas, a doctor says it will be slight. Two blue pills to the engineer—evening fine, but a cloudy, cold night—three oak logs blazing all night.

Rain all day, threatening. P—n's face very much swollen, no other bad symptom. The engineer has had no return of the ague; he is taking two grains of quinine every three hours during the day.

G—d—n walling in the boiler, and the rollers are in their places—we shall wait now for pipes.

H—y cutting firewood, M—e cooking, I carpentering, that is, I am turning the legs of the stools outwards, which M—e turned inwards — we called the stools his traps.

Heavy rain all night, but now very fine, with a cool north-west wind. P—n better; he will let his horse run loose, so this morning the creature cannot be found — heavy rain. The perseverance of the ant is anxiously shown here; they will insist upon travelling a great distance to run up a cedar close to the house; they have been repeatedly stopped by fire, and hot wood ashes, but on they come, undaunted.

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The sixteenth, a fine cool day, after the rain of yesterday.

M—e to Marysville, to hurry up some things wanted by the engineer.

A Mr. N—ch—n, president of the "Smith O'Brien" Quartz-crushing Company, came to me about putting a water-mill on their lode. What a title for a company ! quite enough for a man to bear it. I am to have a horse or mule sent for me, and then go to look at it.

Some quartz from a supposed lode was brought in by H—y ; the first few ounces showed nothing, the next presented a fine show of gold. The want of some copper pipes will delay the engine in its start.

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A heavy fog, terminating in rain, dis-

tinguished the seventeenth till noon, when the sun broke brilliantly through.

At breakfast, Mr. N—ch—n and Mr. M—t—l, members of the "Smith O'Brien" company, came in, bringing with them a mule for me — a breakfast is quickly dispatched in mining life, because there are not many luxuries to linger over, and other things to look after. Got on the mule, and rode with the Smith O'Briens to see their lode, as well as one called the "Shakespeare." In going to these lodes, we descended so steep a mountain, that the mules we rode literally were on their haunches all the way down; this descent continues for at least a mile and a half.

The face of this portion of the country is strangely thrown together; masses seem to rise up against masses, only separated by a darkly-shaded abyss, across

which they sternly frowned at each other.

Having accomplished the descent, I found myself upon the bank of the Feather river, which rushes in foaming haste over its bed of black slate rocks, whose sharp edges rise in ridges, obstructing its impetuous course. At the edge of the water there were four Indians groping for gold amongst the crevices of the uncovered rocks; one was picking it out with the point of a clasp-knife, the other used an old iron spoon, and with these implements they had already obtained at least a dollar's-worth of flake gold.

The "Smith O'Brien" lode I thought of no value, the "Shakespeare" appeared to be good — this lode was situated where it cropped out on a bold, rocky peninsula, round which the noble stream rushed in the grandest confusion, throw-

ing its spray from rock to rock as the current was dashed to atoms in its raging career. I stood upon the brow, almost infatuated with this engaging scene, till my American friends gave me a hint that "time was money," in California ; so we remounted our mules, and by taking our ascent in zig-zag course, we gradually regained the summit, I being fully convinced that whenever machinery was placed upon either of these lodes, nothing but the flood of the Feather river would remove it.

On this side, the mountains are well-clothed with shrubs, oak, and pine, the soil red and gravelly ; on the other, far as I could see, the face of the country is bare and sterile, the surface one forbidding mountainous expanse of a grey colour. The Indians on that side are said to be very untameable, and it has been

very little searched ; probably their uninviting reputation has repelled enterprise in this direction. From its appearance I am satisfied it would yield a good metallic remuneration.

Rode back through Forbes town, a place considered more dissolute than any in the state ; it has about fifteen hundred inhabitants, including the population of the surrounding diggings—these have proved extremely rich. Got home to a late dinner. H—y had a good beef-steak ready, with baked potatoes. A lovely night.

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This morning H—y began to cut his wood—he won't make wages by his work ; I was carpentering in the house.

The Yuba river Indians came to the Indian ranche near the Keystone, and drove the latter away, because they were



friendly with the white men ; some seventy Americans have crossed the Yuba to destroy the ranche of these in return, so there will be a fight perhaps.

Went to look at the lode ; found P—n and two others digging to strike the lode in another place ; half their time is lost in searching for specimens amongst the quartz gravel which they throw up, and when they find any little stone, showing a pin's point of gold, they are in raptures, and leave work for the day.

A fine night, and no wind.

The engineer is still going on with the engine, but nothing can be done till the copper pipes come ; in California, the tradesmen care very little whether they oblige the purchaser or not ; if you say, " I shall get my work elsewhere," the cool reply is, " Well, I guess you can."

H——y crushed up a few small pieces

of quartz from the lode, and it gave a good yield of gold.

My carpentering talent has completed the kitchen dresser ; the kitchen being one corner of the room near the fire-place ; all the cooking and dish-washing now goes on in this corner, instead of being performed on our drawing-room table.

Some hail fell at noon.

P—n brought us some bread he made himself ; there is a rivalry between him and M——e in the baking business.

“ DIGGINGS ON THE MIDDLE FORK.—  
The miners at Grey Eagle city, Big Bar, and Spanish Bar, on the above river, are doing better than at any previous time this season. The gold found at the former place is coarse, and it is not unusual for hundreds of dollars to be washed from a single panful of dirt. Many of the claims at Murderer's Bar have been overflowed

until recently ; but pumps of great power have now been obtained, and the leads are drained so effectually that the miners are enabled to save the minutest particles of gold. Many who left the river a week or two since for the dry diggings in the ravines and gulches between the Middle and North Forks, have staked out their claims, built their log-houses, and commenced throwing up dirt to wash when the rains set in."

This notice has appeared in one of the papers ; the "digging" community here are in a high state of excitement in consequence, and very probably many will "vamose"—in other words, will leave.

I washed two shirts ; made no bad work of it, but the rubbing on the knuckles is a little severe for the amateur hand. Altogether, our room has a decided Robinson Crusoe character, only we have no dog,

cat, parrot or goat ; if we had the latter, we should certainly eat it by the bye. I shall now undertake to cure the rickets with which the table has been afflicted from its infancy. When H—y and myself are both writing on opposite sides, we balance it very fairly ; but if either rises, that side is weighed down by the weight on the other, and the pen takes a curious excursion about the paper, till the descent of the table top is completed.

News has come that the American party who went out after the Yuba Indians, caught and hung two who confessed their criminality, and another who made no confession, but accused other Indians. A little absence of proof is not an obstacle to the execution of an Indian ; one fact, however, is sure—namely, that the Indians cannot be at all trusted ; and it is now ascertained that when they are closely charged with a

murder or theft, they have always an old man to present as the murderer or thief.

The engine and machinery are up, but waiting for steam pipes. The Americans are very jealous of their franchise ; the following appeared to-day :—

“ As to the rights of citizenship, and the qualifications to vote, the following general answers may be relied on as correct.

“ A legal citizen must reside in the State six months before he can vote. If he is an emigrant, his citizenship commences from the day on which he left his domicile in any other State ; and although there has been some dispute on this point, the opinion of the Attorney-General is considered decisive in its favour. He must reside in the county thirty days in order to vote for county officers.

“ The inquiry whether the neglect of a citizen to pay his poll-tax disqualifies him

from voting, is, by common consent, acknowledged to be that it does not. The law says that no man shall vote, or be allowed to sue in a court of justice, unless he has paid his poll-tax ; but the Constitution, which is the superior government of the land, says that all free white naturalized citizens shall be entitled to vote without restriction. This settles the question, in our opinion, that whether a man has paid his poll-tax or no, he is free to vote at any election.

“ A person can vote for State officers at any poll he may be at in the State ; for county officers, at any poll in the county ; and for precinct officers, at any poll in that township.”

While out this afternoon examining a ravine, being desirous of ascertaining whether the quartz lode crossed it or not, I heard not far off, and approaching, bark-

ing of dogs, hideous yells and screams ; D——k, who was with me, thought the Indians were upon us. We both got behind some manzaneta bushes, and looked to the percussion caps of our rifles, for no one thinks now of moving without these or revolvers ; here we awaited whatever it might be that was advancing ; presently a cayota came by at speed, close after it a tribe of the merriest yelping mongrel curs that ever disgraced the canine creation, following these came the Indians, armed with their bows and arrows ; we saw then that the whole was but a hunting affair.

I never saw so unearthly a race ; they were greatly excited, and possibly looked more demoniacal than usually they did ; short in stature, but wiry and slight figures, they threaded their way through the bushes with extraordinary rapidity ; no raiment encumbered their limbs, but they all had

feathers of various colours stuck through their hair. Some of them recognised D——k, but they were too eagerly bent on the chase to stop for a moment—indeed, if one did, it was only to look at the rifles we carried.

Another opening has been made on the lode ; the quartz, which is much decomposed, yields better than the first which was got out, so far as it has been tested.

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On opening the door at daylight this morning, I saw two cayotas close to the house ; they were off before I could get my rifle out.

The men working on the lode brought me some quartz which they thought wondrous rich, there being a good deal of the sulphate of iron about it ; a little



nitric acid dissipated all their expectations ; the quartz has gold in it nevertheless.

Declined the " Shakespeare " and " Smith O'Brien " lodes ; to put machinery there would be to leave it there for ever, whether the quartz was good or bad.

Another party of Indians came by, dressed up with feathers in their hair ; I never encourage these savages ; they come either to steal or beg, and are treacherous always.

What splendid weather ! H——y and myself are sitting at dinner, the door open, and fire nearly out. H——y is not so good a cook as is M——e ; P——n the best baker.

The mornings are cool, but the instant the sun appears above the trees on the ridge behind our house, the temperature is delightful.

Harassed by the non-arrival of the

things wanted to complete the engine—it takes a fortune to pay for sending messengers backwards and forwards ; the post-office is at a discount, there is no certainty of a letter reaching its intended destination by this channel; this insecurity clearly arises, not, as some say, from dishonesty, but solely from the practice of changing every postmaster, clerk, letter-sorter, and every individual employed in the office whenever a change of governor takes place ; not only are these changed, but the post-office itself is made to feel the political commotion. I have known in three years the post-office in three situations ; first it stood in a very appropriate situation, but the postmaster built an extensive range of rooms not far from it; he could not by law let his own property to the government, therefore it appeared as that of his son, who was induced to let the rooms to his

father, on the part of the government, for the trifling consideration of two thousand dollars per month (four hundred pounds). The election took place, and another general flight from and of the post-office followed ; it went from one side of Portsmouth Square to another of the same square, although everything had to be "fixed up" afresh ; the consequence of all this is, that no one in the office has any proper knowledge of his duty ; so letters go anywhere they should not go, and sometimes do not go at all. A curious practice has grown out of this want of system ; some shrewd business men observed this want of ability in the post-office, and immediately set about finding a remedy, which, while it benefitted the public, would also remunerate the authors of it ; they established what they termed an "Express ;" they organised stations,

not only throughout California, but also in the United States on the Atlantic ; they enlisted messengers to travel the country, received and sent letters, parcels' treasure, and, in short, became carriers of every thing, delivering letters especially with infinitely greater accuracy and dispatch than was ever known to distinguish the post-office. The Express offices were so much employed to the prejudice of the post-office revenue, that the district attorney (equal to a law officer of the crown) commenced a suit against the proprietors ; but this was met with so much anger on the part of the people, that proceedings were withdrawn, and since that time the business of the Express offices has been amazingly enlarged, and very deservedly so, from the fidelity with which they perform their engagements with the public. It is a fact, that the steamer carrying the

United States mail under a government contract, never leaves New York or San Francisco without having also on board the letter-bags of the several Express offices. The amount of manifested gold sent home by the steamer to Panama every fortnight generally exceeds two millions of dollars, and it is with justice computed that not less than a third as much more is carried home about the persons of the passengers.

How lovely the temperature and weather has been now for nearly seven weeks in the middle of winter ; at this time the most fretful invalid could not find fault.

Walked to a neighbouring Indian ranche with H—y, looking for deer. En passant, he is far too lazy for California life ; in these excursions he often is disposed to sit down and admire the view, which never attracts his notice when not under exer-

tion himself; he also, when contemplating the landscape, indulges in what is courteously called singing.

An old, inoffensive, and industrious emigrant, who washed for gold in the week-days, and expounded Scripture, with, at least, a good intent, on Sundays, was found murdered not far from Forbes' Town; he was pierced with several arrows, and no other wound about him. The people have got two Indians on suspicion for trial; these are defended by an American, called "Colonel P—t—e," who, for some reasons, gives all the protection he possibly can to the Indians; if these two Indians are found guilty, it is not at all improbable that the colonel may be hung with them, for a mob in the diggings will act very summarily.

I have had a small lean-to built at the end of the house, so now I have a private

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place to dress in ; it is about eight feet by six. The teamster who promised to bring the pipes, &c. for the steam-engine, found another job, so left them behind. Just like these people ; no reliance can be placed in them, when a few dollars and cents become the object.

## CHAPTER VI.

## MARCH.

THE first of March comes in with snow, sleet, and rain, by turns. Just the weather to drive the deer, grisly bears, and such other animals to the lower mountain ranges ; so, accompanied by D—k, I took my rifle, and off we went “ hunting,” Anglicè, shooting. We are tired of beef, and want venison ; D—k had two shots, one a fair chance, but he missed both.

Very few of the Americans can shoot game when flying and running ; indeed,



their rifle is not calculated to be used without a rest ; it is very long and heavy, even with a rest. I have seen them certainly half-a-minute taking aim ; then, if not interrupted, they strike the object generally with precision. In this manner I saw P—n cut the head off a quail with a ball ; and another of our own party shot a squirrel through the head, both having previously stated where the ball would strike ; but I do not think their firing generally would equal that of our riflemen, whom I have seen strike either the bull's-eye, or close to it in the target, almost every shot, at three hundred yards, firing quickly from the shoulder, without a rest ; the advantage certainly must be on the side of him who fires with rapidity and precision.

General Ross, who was killed before Baltimore in the last war with America,

fell a victim to this clandestine way of taking life; it may not be generally known how he was killed, but the following account was given to me by an American gentleman, Mr. Osborne, who resided in Baltimore at the time, and whose good feeling reprobates desultory warfare. Mr. Osborne stated to me that three lads, the eldest only sixteen years of age, from curiosity went out after the retreat of the Americans into the city to see the soldiers; the eldest carried a rifle (as every American lad does as soon as he can—he may almost be said to be born with a rifle in his hand); but they crept along amongst the brushwood, fearing to be taken prisoners. They soon heard the tramp of horses advancing, and concealing themselves, they saw three officers riding up an open space in the wood—in short, an old road. These officers were General

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Ross, Admiral Sir G. Cockburn, and the Colonel Mullins, of New Orleans fame; there was a dispute as to whether the rifle should be fired or not; they rode on, it was determined to fire, and the general fell. The lads got away into Baltimore immediately; but, I was told, quite frightened at what they had done, until applauded for doing it.

Came in wet and tired, so I set about "fixing up" my new room—rather tedious work.

In the evening G—d—n came in. Our neighbours are good, kind-hearted men, uneducated, and without personal resources; so they come to us every now and then, when the weather prevents them from "hunting" or working.

G—d—n talked about genealogy very like a republican; but when I gave him a few instances of the manner in which, through genealogical records, vast proper-

ties had been gained, he became as good an aristocrat as I ever remember to have seen.

Having worked at lining the sides of my room with "muslin," in English, a rather coarse linen, and also upon a side-table, I reviewed my performances; the lining put on very badly—the table rather creditable for an amateur artificer. The rain makes a forest-mountain life rather uncomfortable, when we have to cut and bring in our own firewood—in fact, be our own servants; the logs of oak are so heavy, and the ground now so soft, that we are obliged to roll them down the hill to the house; if one happens to miss the place, it proceeds with precipitation into a ravine, and is lost for ever to us. It is well that the house has been built a foot off the ground, for a perfect flood is rushing under it, and has converted the land in front into a morass.

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We are all waiting for the things which have been so long since sent for ; but for this, the engine would have been at work. Small as it is, the quartz might, at least, have been tested.

I received a curious but kind letter from a Mr. S—th—ll ; it appears that he is at the head of an association, whose object is the formation of a collection of the “ornate, innate, and animate” productions of California. He writes to me requesting to know if I think His Royal Highness the Prince Albert would consent to be the patron ; but he informs me that he has also addressed the prince on the subject.

Mr. S—th—ll seems to be a very flighty, well-meaning man—by the bye, he proposes to send me a copy of the book he is now writing, as a kind of accompaniment to the collection.

There has been almost continued heavy rain for some days.

The party who went out to take the Indians, whom it was supposed were sheltered by "Colonel" P—t—e, after having committed a murder, have returned, bringing with them the Indians accused, both of whom are to be tried to-night in Forbes Town—in other words, they are to be hung.

H—y gone to Forbes' Town for beef this morning; came home early with a quarter strapped on the saddle, he leading the horse. Then he began baking and cooking; but the rain came down the chimney, and nearly put the fire out; so in spite of the rain, we got some clapboards up, and created a sloping cover, which kept the rain out sufficiently to enable us to resume the culinary duties, the suspension of which threatened the loss of our dinner.

This weather "riles" our Yankee friends here very much ; they want the excitement of work, hunting a deer, hanging an Indian, or lynching a Sydney convict ; as it is, they come loafing about, to amuse themselves at any one's expense ; one of ours here is an unmitigated bore, so this day I persuaded him that he was very ill, gave him some medicine, and told him not to get his feet wet by any means ; so he went home. I thought I had got rid of him ; ten minutes afterwards he re-entered, took his seat by the fire, and coolly said, " Well, I guess I like this best, so I got the Indian-rubbers to keep my feet kinder dry, and I thought I'd come again," and we had him for some hours.

The wind dislodged the chimney-top ; the rain monstrous heavy at the same time, and the fire was quite put out, the

fire-place exhibiting only some charred wood, ashes, and mud; our spirits rose with the occasion, and H—y assisting me, we got another cover over; but then we had no dry wood, not a spark could we raise; happily, I had some spirits of wine, and one of Jones' Etnas, so we boiled some water, had tea, with bread and butter, and a slice of cold ham—tolerably well off, after all.

Our American in the Indian-rubbers, feeling our distress, rose, trotted away, and soon after returned with a quantity of dry pine and oak split up, with which we soon made a good fire again, and he left us for the night. Raining in torrents.

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The eighth of March cold, cloudy, and sleet. Hearing that a waggon had come to the neighbouring ranche, P—n walked

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there with me, hoping that some of the engine "fixings" had been brought up; but nothing was there—a great disappointment; though, with all this rain, I do not see how anything is to cross the plain.

Went out with P—n and D—k to look for deer; after walking about the mountains for three hours, P—n shot a wild pigeon, a fine plump bird, about the size of a teal; saw nothing else.

At sunset, a gale from the southward; and at bed-time a hurricane, with a deluge of rain. It has been what ladies call a "fearful night"—a pine, two hundred feet high, fell with a tremendous crash, not more than twenty yards clear of the house; had the wind been but a point or two different, the tree would have smashed our mansion into a "cocked hat." Why a cocked-hat is to describe a shapeless

mass I cannot say, and therefore leave the explanation to our ingenious transatlantic friends; the ill-fixed chimney-cover also blew off, and being blown along the roof, made us believe the whole was being removed by the wind, so we both quietly waited the catastrophe, whatever it might be, but nothing more happened.

The day is so cold, wild, wet, and the weather threatening to remain so, that H—y and myself sallied out to bring in a large supply of wood, then we put an empty flour-barrel over the chimney-top, having cut holes all round it to let the smoke out—this invention answered the purpose well, and I beg to advertise its celebrity here.

After breakfast, more for amusement than anything else, I pounded up one pound of the Keystone quartz, put the

sand into a small amalgamator, and worked it for a few minutes—when the quicksilver was retorted, it left gold to the amount of eighteen cents in the retort—this would be three hundred and sixty dollars to the ton—a yield never known throughout.

P—n sent us the pigeon he shot, split and grilled it for breakfast, and monstrous nice it was.

Snow fell heavily through the night, and we felt the inconvenience of being in a clapboard house; wind and snow came in very liberally. After breakfast H—y and myself brought in another large supply of firewood in order to keep up a dry stock of it.

Our barrel chimney top maintains its position very creditably. We hear that Marysville is flooded—nothing more likely for it stands on low ground,

exactly at the junction of the Feather and Yuba rivers, both which the rain has swollen, and when the snow melts, the flood will be worse still. Passed three pounds of crushed quartz through the amalgamator, the results confirmed my opinion of the quartz, but P—n accidentally upset the evaporating pan, and I lost the gold.

Snow all day, and at bed-time, a comfortless night; thank Heaven we have dry beds, a good fire and shelter, the last, however, none of the best.

The snow fell all night, and is now falling (the eleventh).

Sitting at breakfast this morning a "holloa" was heard in the mountains opposite; what a desolating feeling attends an unanswered call of the wanderer in the forest! how instantly and mercilessly thrown upon his own re-

sources to relieve him' from exhausted strength, and threatened starvation. On this occasion, however, there was immediate assurance of help at hand. In the forest none can know the origin of the call, but the one who wants assistance, therefore [from the three or four shanties, called Carrysville, out started five "good men and true," gave a cheering reply to the "holloa" and hurried on in its direction, each armed either with a rifle or with a revolver; the voice was evidently from a person across the deep ravine which separated the mountain on which we were from another; placing us, up and down, each, about a mile and a half apart, but in an "air line" very much closer, the snow was falling heavily and obstructed our distant view—our call became more distinct, delivered with less exertion

and a moment more placed us in sight of St—e, one of our own miners, who had gone out to look for a deer. He had been successful, and having shot the deer high up on the mountain, found no difficulty in dragging the dead animal to the foot of it over the snow; arriving there with his prize, he was quite unable to advance farther without help, whence the origin of his call, in hopes of being within hearing range.

It was a beautiful creature; S—e had shot it through the head; it was not even disfigured by scarcely a blood-stain. We stood for some little time involuntarily giving the tribute of admiration to its symmetrical proportions; then we proceeded to contrive the easiest method of conveying it to our houses; to carry it was the first endeavour, so each took a limb and one the head: off we went up

the side of a hill upon an ascent of about seventy-five degrees ; scarcely had we climbed a hundred yards, than the whole party slipped down to the ravine again. Another plan was then proposed, a stick was lashed to the head and neck, to this each person tied their handkerchiefs : in this manner, four were pulling together, like horses abreast, two and two, the other kept the carcase clear of the bodies of trees, &c., by which the procession passed.

Adopting this happy device, we soon triumphantly reached Carrysville, and the next operation was the division ; this was very liberally carried out, and for three days our dinners were comparatively aldermanic.

Curiously enough, not an hour after our arrival had taken place, D—k, who also had gone upon a similar errand,

was seen coming in with a fawn, which he also had shot, hanging round his neck and shoulders. The first that was brought in weighed one hundred and fifty-seven pounds of available meat, the other much less, being a fawn of the past summer only.

The snow suspends all work, and will certainly delay the arrival of the long-ordered things wanted for the engine.

Some cuyotas came last night, probably attracted by the smell of the freshly-killed deer, and finding nothing within their reach, but the skins which were laid out on some planks to dry, ate some, and tore what they left in pieces.

Snow falling heavily again. H—y has taken to singing and whistling, which will at least scare away the cuyotas and Indians.



A Dr. B—th—w has frequently brought me some quartz to test for him ; doing so, has given me amusement during these long intervals of snow ; he must not work those lodes—they will not pay, under the existing rate of wages.

From the summit of the mountain behind our location, the coast range can be distinctly seen towering above, and bounding the intervening plain ; the lake, now completely flooded, has the appearance of an immense inland sea ; report says that hundreds of cattle have been drowned in consequence of these continued rains, and snow melting on the mountains, by which the rivers so suddenly overflow their banks.

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The fourteenth, Sunday, rain falling in torrents. How wretchedly this day is

always passed in California; if in San Francisco, services certainly, and even open-air preaching, in unison with bull-fights, cock-fighting, racing, saloons, and theatres; if in the mountains, rifle practice, or "loafing" from house to house, so no one is secure against intrusion.

Bed-time; tremendous rain, but we have a glorious fire to look at.

News has just arrived that the plains can only, and with great difficulty, be crossed on horseback.

P—n brought to me one pound ten ounces of the earth taken promiscuously from the lode. It produced exactly four grains of gold, which is something more than six cents and a half to the pound, or one hundred and thirty-five dollars to the ton. This earth very much resembles red ochre, and lies exactly in the

centre of the lode; the run is about three inches broad, and the quartz on each side is from eighteen inches to two feet thick ! it was this red earth that I wished to work up with the small engine.

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This afternoon, (the fifteenth) the weather began to clear up, and for the second time in fifteen days, the coast range of mountains were in sight ; the wet weather in the mountains makes it tiresome, especially when unable to have a servant because people at home won't buy shares.

We hear that the "lèvèe" or dyke at Sacramento has given way, and that the people were obliged to fly to their upper rooms, there being four feet water in the streets. Some good will come out of this ; the place was swarming with rats, of which pest the great majority are now killed.

The rain seems to have left us; and considering what has fallen, I think there cannot be much more to come.

Got up early, and with D—k went to look for deer, or any game, for we are all tired of eating beef hardly fit for hounds. After traversing the hills for three hours without seeing anything more than the traces of deer, we both returned tired and hungry.

M—e went away before the bad weather set in, and we have not heard of him since; we are not quite comfortable about him.

M—tl—d came over from Forbes' Town, and brought me a large packet of letters from England. The Californian quartz rising in estimation; shares in demand; five thousand pounds I am to be empowered to draw for "on the directors;" this is something, but it will go a very

little way in Californian mining, even if any one will cash a bill on the "A. C. G. M. Company Directory," where a dollar will not do more than will a shilling in England; M—tl—d's "Hill-side" quartz-lode is not good for much, if I may judge from that which I have tried for him.

Wrote to P—n to say that I would bring up the engine now at San Francisco, the moment on his part the audit was run as agreed upon; they are to send me terms.

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The nineteenth; a repetition of the former lovely weather appears to have set in. At last, a waggon came with some of the things wanted, but still the most essential are wanting.

The population washing for gold are

actively making the most of the water, for now no more rain.

In consequence of the financial intimations which I received by the last mail, it became necessary to go to San Francisco to negotiate some bills, if indeed any one will cash bills drawn upon the directory of a company scarcely known, even upon the Stock Exchange of London.

Dr. B—d called with his waggon; as he goes this morning to Marysville, I go down with him. We left the Keystone at ten o'clock.

There is a place called the "Texas" ranche, about nine miles on the road, near which a water-course does the duty of a road for a space; it is full of large stones, over which the waggon jolted fearfully, and at last the body literally shifted from its place on the bed; one jolt more, and it would have been in the water.

The vehicle was stopped in time, but we both had to get out and stand in a rapid stream, while we were "fixing up" again; in a short time all was right, and away again went the doctor and his waggon.

Got to Huff's ranche, twelve miles from Marysville, at sun-set, too late to cross the plain in its present state. Found supper on the table, so we sat down to it. These meals are very sorry affairs both in the material and in the society; every labourer, miner, teamster, or other person who happens to be at the house, sits down together; certainly, each of them has washed, at the general basin, his hands, and brushed his hair with the general brush hanging on the wall of the supper-room; in every other respect each is as he came from his work, dirty enough. During the meal you must seize upon anything by you, without ceremony; and

as no one thinks of asking if he shall help any other, so you have an arm, clothed in a wet or dirty woollen cloth, frequently and suddenly thrust across your plate, which returns by the same route, having successfully foraged upon some distant territory.

Bed-time came; about twenty-four of us were turned into one long room, our beds laid out like those of an hospital; each took one, and generally the tenants did not undress. Almost every person on such occasions has a very considerable amount of gold about him, and it is curious to observe the several methods taken to secure it, together with the revolver, without which few move about.

This is carrying out the law of liberty and equality with a vengeance; for though you are willing to pay for more secluded accommodation, you cannot by any means



obtain it. In one corner, by the bye, there was a woman with a baby.

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Up at sun-rise, the twentieth. The doctor having "hitched up" his team, we again started, and came to Marysville about noon, the people of which place were in great excitement. A thief had been captured : the mob would have Judge Lynch to try him ; the recorder, had possession, and would not recognise that authority ; all was uproar. I have seen a pack of hounds baying round the huntsman who holds up the fox, and so now did the mob round the recorder who held the thief : revolvers were cocked on both sides—but the recorder, was not to be bullied, so the prisoner was committed to jail ; the offence, however, was a bailable one ; the bail required was two thousand

dollars ; in the event of the accused flying from his securities, the recorder has half the whole sum, so it generally happens that the person bailed pays half the sum into the recorder's hands, and gives personal security for the other half: he is then set so far at liberty ; and if his case is clearly a bad one, he "slopes" with all possible dispatch, and disappears ; these were the grounds of difference between the mob and legal authority. This man, however, afterwards was again caught by the mob and thrown into jail, from whence he was taken to be tried at the assizes ; he was then condemned, and upon the morning of his execution he was conveyed in an insensible state, having been rendered so by some drug ; and utterly ignorant of what was passing, he was hung amidst the scoffs and jokes of the enlightened citizens.

Enjoyed a delightful evening with my friends, Dr. and Mrs. B—tt ; I can tolerate mountain life, if I am sure of a few evenings with them afterwards.

Slept at the Tremont hotel—what places to call hotels ! the entrance is a bar-room, where every one drinks, the floor is slippery with discharged tobacco-juice ; then there is the “ parlour,” in which each sofa is occupied by one person lying at length upon it, all smoking and spitting ; the meat-room has been already drenched. The Tremont has two or three single bedrooms ; I had one of these, thanks to the landlord, Mr. H—sk—n. In the next room to me, divided from mine only by a thin papered lining tacked to a frame, were two Americans ; one of them revealed his views of the inhabitants of the British Isles.

The Scotchman was a sullen “ crittur,”

half bull, half donkey. The Irishman was the "meanest thing in all creation." And "as for the Britishers," he said, "whenever I see one, I want to give him particular h—ll."

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The next morning, the twenty-second, I was on my way to San Francisco by the steamer. About eleven miles below Marysville the vessel stopped for half-an-hour, this was for the purpose of allowing sundry passengers to pay a visit to Captain Sutton, at his place, Hock Farm, en passant; his daughter had been married the evening before, and as appears to be the fashion here, the night is consecrated to revelry and feasting.

I went to see the captain, and found him sitting at a table amongst bottles half and quite empty, wine-glasses and tum-

blers, showing what once had filled them, and stumps of half-used cigars, the floor covered with all the débris of a supper ; the captain scarcely recovered from his indulgences.

We then returned on board, and the steamer passed on her voyage again. At San Francisco by eleven o'clock—slept on board.

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Next morning, domiciled at Mrs. G—m's. I found a letter here from a member of the directory, telling me by no means to draw for the five thousand pounds, for which I had the board's permission to draw for, a few days ago ! How can any enterprise be carried on successfully upon such a system ? However, if at first the board really intended me to draw for this money, I was already prevented from doing so by the form in

which it was to be addressed for payment. I am told no one will cash bills so addressed, so all the work must still be suspended. I am a modern Tantalus ; five thousand pounds hung up to look at—not to employ.

This morning, Mr. C—pt—n gave me a letter from Mr. M—cl—n, of Hong Kong, with also a box of delightful tea, which the latter has most kindly sent to me ; and a great treat it is, for here nothing drank but green tea, and shocking stuff it is.

Two ships came in from China, bringing upwards of eight hundred celestials, who intend trying their fortunes in the diggings. The celestials have an eye to business sometimes ; for instance :

“MARKED HIS CHICKENS.—A gentleman who lives on Rincon Point, complained of Ah Wow, a Chinaman, for

stealing four of his chickens. The owner of the fowls had marked them, by tying a piece of red flannel to their legs. John's witnesses swore that several of his hens were marked in the same manner, to designate which were the best laying hens."

I went to see Dr. C—ll—r's newly-invented quartz-crusher and amalgamator ; the crushing, or rather grinding process is very perfect. I took Count W—s to see the method of amalgamating ; he does not approve of it ; and as he has been in the Hungarian mines the most part of his life, his testimony is worth having.

News from Nevada. Two lawyers quarrelled about a decision in court : one of them shot the other ; the friends of the wounded party being unable to catch the shooter, who had fled, instantly adjourned to his office, where, finding his partner,

they shockingly beat him instead, and called it an instalment of the debt due to the firm.

A tragic accident occurred at S—ll—gs ranche, a few nights since ; a number of people were sleeping, as before described, in one long room, all armed as usual, but the room being full, another, who arrived, went above, to sleep in a loft. Something in the night alarmed them ; every man jumped up, and in the hurry to seize revolvers and rifles, one of the latter was fired ; the alarm subsided, and all parties again laid down. When rising in the morning, many jokes were passed ; but the host, looking for his pay, observed, “ Where is the man in the loft ? ” and got on the ladder to see. He appeared to be asleep ; but attempting to awaken him, he was found to be quite dead. On examination, it was discovered that the ball



from the rifle had gone through his heart !

A man gambling this day (Sunday), suddenly fell forward on the table, and instantly died. Also, says the Monday paper, Mr. R—k was brought up, charged with shooting Messrs. G—s and R—y yesterday, on the race-course. He was admitted to bail in the sum of one thousand dollars.

I have a horrible influenza cold, and there is a child in the house outrageously crying and swearing, the father and mother both threatening all manner of things to keep it quiet. Some one above me has contributed to my comforts while in bed, by upsetting his water-jug, and conferring an impromptu shower-bath on me ; seizing my Indian-rubber coat, I evaded it in some degree ; floors are not water-proof here.

Dined at Mrs. —, in Stockton. Went to meet Judge L—; imagine the learned authority dancing the polka, after dinner, with a young lady of the party.

A gun fired. Panama steamer in, probably.

The Stockton papers complain of an increase of “stabbing” cases, and of “disorderly” habits generally, in the vicinity of that city; for instance:

“Last Friday, three men were shot in the vicinity of Stockton; on Saturday evening, an attempt was made to shoot two men, without provocation; and the same night, a Mexican was most inhumanly butchered in a house in the outskirts of the city; and on Sunday morning, an attempt was made to shoot a gentleman, for no earthly reason that he could conceive of. We do not know that we have mentioned all the cases yet; but

these we know of, for they are the subject of conversation by everybody."

The journal says it does not wish to be rough, but this state of things should be looked into, and the authorities be called upon to stop it. Below are several items exhibiting the unruly nature of some of the citizens of Stockton.

This, at least, is temperate enough to please even a peaceable Quaker. I conversed this day with an engineer on the subject of putting up the engine now at San Francisco ; this is a very small one, only a six-horse power, standing upon a bed-plate, to be screwed down to a six-inch plank, to cover a timber foundation ; his estimate being put down as we proceeded, it amounted to two thousand five hundred pounds, or twelve thousand five hundred dollars. This did not include anything whatever but the mere carriage

and erection of the engine and crushing machinery.

Miseries of a San Francisco boarding-house—no servant calls you in the morning—if you want warm water, you had better keep a spirit-lamp nursery baby-kettle, matches, &c. in your room—if you wish for polished shoes, wear patent leather, or keep a blacking establishment in your room. A hideous gong calls you to meals, and if you miss the meal-hour, it is in vain that you ask for anything to eat at any other time ; if you are ill, no one troubles himself to know what are your necessities, unless some friend will look to them ; this I mention from experience, through my late influenza attack.

The good people of California may congratulate themselves upon the manner in which, by the following statements that

have appeared in the papers, their steamships are commanded :

“STEAM-SHIP ‘NORTH AMERICA.’—We yesterday took a walk down to the wharf where the steam-ship ‘North America’ was lying. In company with two friends we went on board, and were introduced to Captain B—n, her obliging and gentlemanly commander. The ‘North America’ is a large and magnificent ship. Her accommodations are most ample, and her facilities for cleanliness and ventilation are as complete as in any ship we ever saw. She will be a popular boat, if her agents and owners will only be as liberal and obliging as her commander. Captain B—n is destined to take with Californians. He has already got the hang of our people, and their notions of men and things.”

“THE ‘CALIFORNIA.’—This pioneer

steam-ship, commanded by Captain B—d, as clever a gentleman as ever walked the deck of a steam-ship, leaves with the United States mails on the fifteenth instant. She has brought to and carried from this State many thousands, and we think she is strong enough, and popular enough, to carry upon her breast many thousands more. Captain B—d is always a live seaman on board of his ship. He talks and acts sensibly, and his ship moves upon the waters ‘like a thing of life.’”

“THE ‘ISTHMUS.’—This steamer has been handsomely refitted. She is commanded by Captain O—r, a most gallant and gentlemanly officer. He is warmly attached to California. He holds a high rank in the navy, both as an officer and a man, with all who know him; and should war ever break out, he will be found where duty leads.”

The first of these has, unhappily, in some degree fallen short of the commendation, having been lately completely wrecked when coming from the southward, and in a manner that created much suspicion amongst the passengers. The "obliging and gentlemanly" commander had ordered a course to be steered close to the shore; the officer to whom the order had been given saw in a very short time that that course would run the ship on the beach, and steered more to seaward.

The night being calm, with bright moonlight, it could be distinctly seen; the "obliging and gentlemanly" commander came up, and observing that the course of the ship had been altered to seaward, instantly found fault, and as instantly altered it to that which he had at first given. The steamer neared the

coast rapidly, then the surf on the beach was distinctly seen ; the commander would make no alteration, and in a few minutes more the steamer grounded, with her broadside to the beach. The surf always breaking heavily on this shore, soon rendered every attempt to get her off abortive, and the only thing to be done was to save the lives of those on board. This was facilitated by the vessel forming a breakwater for the boats, which were got out, and, I believe, every one landed in safety, but, of course, wet, and with the loss of much baggage.

The passengers remained on the beach, under a tropical sun, during the next day, under very severe privations, many ladies being amongst the number ; mules were at length found to convey them to Acapulco, and from thence they were



brought by other steamers to San Francisco.

The loss of this vessel, it being only her second trip, and having been built and fitted out in New York, purposely to run in opposition to the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, created an extraordinary sensation in San Francisco. It was there openly said, that the vessel was intentionally stranded ; that it was worth the while of the Pacific Mail Company to get rid of her ; and sundry allegations of this complexion were abroad. One thing is very certain, if the commander of the ship was not blind, or deranged in intellect, when he altered the course from that to which the officer of the watch had turned the vessel's head ; he must have seen the consequences that his obstinacy infallibly entailed.

But every captain of a steamer in

California is "obliging and gentlemanly," generally "perfect gentlemen;" the pursers and officers are "polite;" the stewards, servants, accommodation, and provision, are "kinder good."

## CHAPTER VIII.

## APRIL.

THIS month begins with a fine, but cold day, the wind coming from the northward, over the snowy ranges.

The "Panama" mail steamer in. By my letters, it appears that the company are about to send out an engine and crushing machinery of great power, capable, I am told, of crushing one hundred and fifty tons per diem. To put this engine up will cost, at least, seven thousand pounds, or thirty-five thousand dol-

lars, exclusive of necessary buildings ; and by sending it now, they will get it here just as the rains will have rendered the roads impassable for heavily-laden wag-gons ; the consequence will be, that it must be put in a bonded store, remain there four or five months, paying two or three dollars per ton per month.

This is against advice ; but directories seventeen thousand miles off, are always the best judges ; and though excellent engines here, of forty-five American horse power, can be bought, as I wrote, for seven thousand five hundred dollars, or fifteen hundred pounds ; yet the whole must be sent from England, at a higher cost, and on which thirty per cent. duty must be paid on landing it. I am told the weight of what is coming out will be eighty-five tons, so there will be two hundred and fifty pounds for storage, landing,

re-embarking, &c., not much less ; and there is no money here, or, apparently, anywhere, to meet even these primary expenses.

No engine or machinery should be sent from England to California : the New York workmanship will answer every required purpose ; the things are much less time on the sea, and there is no duty payable upon them. Moreover, the agent sent out should have full powers to select such lodes as he may think most advisable, try them, or “ prove ” them, as Cornish miners say ; and when satisfied on these points, then complete the negotiation ; begin to get out the quartz, wood, &c., prepare the necessary buildings, and get the engine and machinery up during the dry season. A twelve-month employed by the agent in looking about him will be found a great advan-

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tage in the end, and I am satisfied that under such a system, the work being conducted by competent persons, that any mining company would succeed even in California, where labour is unusually high ; but the directories will do things their own way, and encumber the agent with masses of machinery to look after, and pay expenses upon, without supplying money even sufficient to do that, crippling him in the pursuit of objects most important to be completed. It is an absurdity to suppose that four or five gentlemen in England, meeting once a week at the board, can conduct with advantage business that is going on seventeen thousand miles off, in a country new to the operations, and with the requirements of which they can only be made conversant by their agent ; they would more show their sense by noticing his observations.

The cold summer winds are now setting in; these winds blow during the months of June, July, and August, with great violence here; they are, however, in this month, May and September, modified, and very pleasant. In their strength they are always accompanied by a thick fog, by which the entrance to the port is quite obscured. During this period the sun is nearly concealed in the mist, the temperature low, a hurricane in the streets whirling volumes of dust about, and, altogether, making San Francisco intolerable. Should the sun force its rays through the dense atmosphere, the heat then becomes intense; and although an overcoat would have been worn an hour ago, now the lightest clothing would be desirable.

Suddenly, the wind springs up, the fog is renewed, and the cold with it.

These changes render those who encounter the climate of San Francisco very obnoxious to pulmonary complaints; but it is only at San Francisco where this liability exists in California. At a distance of ten miles the fog is unknown; and the wind, so violent at the city, is nothing more than a pleasantly cool breeze. Ships have frequently been unable to work out of the bay, from the wind being so strong, although in the offing they are under all sail, and nearly becalmed.

This phenomenon arises from the country becoming so intensely heated by the sun, and a vacuum being constituted thereby, the sea-wind coming to fill it up, strikes the lofty coast range of mountains, follows their line, until broken by the narrow entrance into San Francisco bay; here, finding an opening, it rushes



in with inconceivable fury ; but what here is insufferable, is, as I said, ten miles off, an invigorating breeze, and delightfully counteracts the heat of the sun.

Count W—s has again examined the crusher and amalgamator of Dr. C—ll—r, and adheres to his expressed opinions. The Count thinks the loss of quicksilver will be very great by this process.

This evening, for the first time, I went to the theatre ; the play was “ The Heir at Law ; ” after-piece, “ The French Spy.” An Englishman performed Zekiel tolerably well ; but the Californians must not attempt genteel comedy—they do not at all understand the character to be represented. The after-piece, “ The French Spy,” was very badly acted.

I have made an arrangement with Mr. H—b—n, an agent for an English Mining

Company here, to take his four Irishmen into my pay, as he finds some difficulty about employing them at the Maripa; he cashes my bill for five hundred pounds upon my directory, as he knows the board and its means; so, at last, I get a little money to go on with, and to do some little towards preparing for the general work.

News has arrived of the retirement of Lord John Russell from office, having been beaten on the Militia Bill, by Lord Palmerston, whom Lord John himself has dismissed from the Foreign-office for something or other; of course, when Lord John will measure his strength with Lord Palmerston, the former must be beaten.

Mr. D—s has arrived; sent by the company to perform the duties of mining agent. A good Cornish mining captain

would be of some service ; mining agents generally scheme for themselves, as well as for others who employ them. He says, he can collect the gold without quicksilver—"quien sabe?" as the Mexican says, when he does not believe a statement.

I showed Mr. D—s two pieces of quartz—neither piece showing any gold ; they came from Placerville : he carefully examined them both, and exclaimed at once—"Miserably poor." I expressed dissent. He said again, "Miserably poor!" Mr. D—s had been bred a millwright, not a miner ; in the first capacity, he had worked about a mining establishment in the Brazils, and there picked up a superficial knowledge of mining.

Called on Mrs. W—n ; a wedding there yesterday ; champagne and cake exhibited. By the bye, the "universal Yankee na-

tion" proposes to "whip" the French champagne, according to Mr. Longworth.

"SPARKLING CATAWBA. —Mr. Longworth, manufacturer of the celebrated Catawba wine at Cincinnati, has written a letter to the New York Tribune regarding it. He says :— 'I claim for it one superiority over imported champagne. It will be found to suit the stomach better, and be much healthier, It is the pure juice of our Catawba grape, with the addition of the best rock candy. The French champagne is made from a mixture of three or four different wines, which never can be healthy to the stomach. They say one kind is to give aroma and flavour ; another, strength ; another, effervescence. If true, our Catawba is superior, for it contains all these properties. Interest may have an influence even in France,

as one of the wines used costs three times as much as the others. I expect next summer to have more wine than will meet the home demand, and shall then send to the Eastern and Southern cities, to wine-merchants, to be sold at private sale, but never at auction. Any person who buys it, and is dissatisfied with its quality, can return to the agent, and receive back the full sum paid."

Mr. and Mrs. MacD—s—I arrived ; he has a mining staff and machinery with him being employed by an English company. There are four of these about to work in California. We have now another English lady in San Francisco. He goes to Maripora this evening.

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Sunday opens with the following notices in the paper ; these performances take

place at the "Mission Dolores:" how different to the practices of this and other missions of earlier days!

"1st. The 'Bandarillero' Vittoriano will perform on horseback, blindfolded.

"2nd. Sr. Nicolas, 'il Matador,' will jump over a bull whilst furiously rushing at him.

"3rd. The Clown, whilst on the shoulders of one of the 'Torreres,' will plant a pair of flags between the horns of a bull.

"4th. The Chief of the Ring will perform some extraordinary feats with the animals.

"5th. Bulls warranted of extraordinary fierceness.

"The fights to begin at three, P. M."

Went to Trinity church with Mrs. MacD—c—e. After all, I can't feel myself in a church here; people come in,

and bow and smile to each other as they would if in a theatre. Miss C—e sang ; she sings in the opera—for church-singing she is said to receive fifty dollars every Sunday. I think, if attraction to the church is intended , that she had better stay at home.

Influenza is prevailing in San Francisco, and I have an admirable sample of it. Met Captain H—d—n, commanding the United States ship “ Vincennes ;” the captain showed me some quartz that came from Queen Charlotte’s Island, it was well speckled with gold, but it appears the lode is only visible at low water.

Left San Francisco by the steamer “ Antelope,” en route to the Keystone, there to join Mr. D—s, the newly-arrived mining agent. As a favour, I had a “ Bridal state-room” given to me to sleep in ; it is well fitted up ; all the large

steamers running to Sacramento have two such state-rooms in readiness, for there are families coming out, it is said and marriages may be expected. The bed, after all, is confoundedly hard, with pillows enough for three beds,—what on earth can they do with them? slept on board.

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At Sacramento, met Mr. H—s, my Hebrew quartz friend—he produces now another lode only forty-five miles from Sacramento—he will, probably, find one in the town soon.

A long conversation with Mr. F—th—n on amalgamators; it seems certain that the less the surface of the quicksilver is broken, the better for the purposes of amalgamation.

Change of air seems the secret cure



for influenza ; my attack is fast fading away.

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This morning on board the " Camanche " steamer to Marysville. Dr. H—ch—k, of the United States army, with his lady and daughter, on board, both pleasing, intelligent companions, the daughter a child. There is no childhood in the American children, none of that playful, innocent, endearing manner, which is so attractive in children ; here children are sententious, crude, and premature.

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Stopped at Plumas city—it consists of one house ; two of its fashionables came on board — then the boat went on to Captain Sutler's place, Hock farm, where

we remained a quarter of an hour, just long enough to allow of my procuring a bouquet for Mrs. B—tt. On to Marysville, and passed the evening at the Doctor's house.

Between Sacramento there are no less than six cities—at least on paper. When the discovery of gold caused an enormous emigration to California in 1849, sundry people seized upon various large tracts of land, staked the ground out in "lots," streets and squares, giving attractive and popular titles to the two latter generally, which sounded oddly when contrasted with others, bearing only a number or letter of the alphabet.

Whenever this was so far completed, the most glowing representations of these cities were industriously spread throughout the state or territory, as it then was ; the lots were sold to applicants who were

soft enough to demand them; and titles were made by those who held the grounds by no right beyond that given by their rifles. Very few of these cities ever came to maturity, consequently we now scarcely hear of those projected, although their sites are still spoken of respectively as Vernon, Frimont, Nicholas, Plumas, Elizabeth, Aro, with Yuba city which stands opposite to Marysville, and was the unsuccessful rival to the latter.

Marysville, from its position, naturally "whipped" all the others, and now enjoys a very considerable name among the trading cities of California; the wooden buildings are fast giving place to others substantially built of brick.

Bought a waggon and double harness for one hundred and sixty-five dollars, preparatory to going to the mountains. Met Captain Sutler; this gentleman in-

vited me to Hock Farm, seven miles from Marysville. I accepted, and rode down in the cool of the evening.

The captain had been an officer of the Swiss Guard of Charles the Tenth of France, at whose expulsion, the captain left also, and after travelling in America, came to California, and had made to him a very extensive grant of land, by the then Mexican Government ; this he called New Helvetia ; erected near to Sacramento " adobe " buildings, surrounded them with a similar wall, called the place Sutler Fort, and had from three to four hundred Indians lying about the place, and feeding upon his resources.

Hock Farm is another place built in " adobe " by Captain Sutler. This does not assume the character of a fortress in any manner ; the house is commodious, and supplied with good stables, farm

buildings, &c., the whole surrounded by a wall, which encloses a yard and gardens extending over three or four acres, the front being on the river. It was here that Captain Sutler first became informed of the unlimited presence of gold in California.

He was sitting one extremely wet evening in his office, and on a sudden, a man named Marshall came in ; Captain Sutler had employed him to put up a saw mill at Coloma, and Marshall was the last man expected to be seen then at Hock Farm ; he looked wild and worn with exertion, the water streaming from his hat and coat. In a surprised tone, Captain Sutler enquired what had brought him to the farm ?

Marshall remained silent, but looking wildly round, he saw a young man who kept the accounts at Hock Farm for the

captain. Marshall significantly looked at Captain Sutler, and in an under-voice said, " There is a person present ; no one must know why I am here."

The captain said, only the clerk was there. Marshall became angry, repeated that no one must know the cause of his visit, and earnestly called on Captain Sutler to come into the house with him, in order to be secure from intrusion.

They retired to the private room of Captain Sutler ; though perfectly alone, still Marshall feared to divulge his secret ; in the greatest excitation, he would start from his chair, rush to the door, rapidly throw it open, listen to ascertain that no one was near, then, taking his seat, begin again his story, only again to rush out of the room, declaring that spies were on them both.

Captain Sutler assured me nearly two

hours were consumed in this manner, until he actually thought that Marshall was mad, for it was clear he was not intoxicated. At length Marshall began to shed tears, imploringly begged the captain to assure him that they were unobserved, and he would tell all.

Captain Sutler did all he could to tranquillize the poor man's mind, anxiously wishing to be separated from, as he thought, a deranged man, not having the most remote idea of the cause of Marshall's conduct. Marshall became calm, and then told his story.

He had cut a channel to convey the water from the river running through Coloma to the wheel of the mill, and had turned the water in, to carry away rubbish and unevennesses ; that having been accomplished, he stopped out the water again, and the channel soon became dry ; the

following evening he was walking along the bottom of it, and saw some small yellow substances, which he scarcely noticed more than to kick them with his foot as he passed ; he came back the same way, and again observing them in many places, picked one up—he found it to be a metal, yellow and heavy ; he collected more. Confirmed in this idea, he exultingly told a companion the circumstance in confidence, while he himself got on horseback, and raced away like a maniac to Hock Farm.

The fatigue of a ride of seventy miles, combined with the visions of unbounded wealth so soon to be secured, certainly for a time disordered his mind, in which state he reached Captain Sutler.

Both returned to Coloma, but on their arrival the secret had transpired, and already some hundred men had collected



on the spot, every one of whom were rapidly acquiring gold. No more was thought of the saw-mill—no man could be got to work it ; no one would labour at any price but for himself, although could a few of them have been recalled to reason calmly, it would have been obvious to them that the plank sawn out at the mill would have been eagerly purchased at their own price, in order to build shelter against the winter, which at this time was near ; but reason had fled before the presence of the gold.

No man had ever so brilliant an opportunity of amassing enormous riches as then had Captain Sutler ; his fort, near where now Sacramento city is, was the only place where cover could be obtained by the inhabitants of the universe rushing to Coloma, for all at first went there, not thinking that gold could be as plentifully

found elsewhere. He had but to sit still in Sutler fort, purchase provisions such as he could get, and sell them at inconceivably high prices. But Captain Sutler was not calculated for such a business ; he was, as he had always been, a frank-hearted, confiding soldier, a man whose name was never mixed up with one sordid thought—who, honest and generous himself, could not bring himself to think others dissimilar ; benevolent and hospitable, his gates were open to every traveller ; and he has lived to find a community as utterly the reverse of himself, as he had thought them similar.

The men he sheltered, fed, and often clothed, are now living in California upon the riches they derive from property swindled from him in his convivial hours ; in those hours these ravening fiends persuaded him to sign powers of attorney

giving them entire control over his property. In this manner a Mormon cajoled him out of almost the entire ground upon which Sacramento stands. This swindling vagabond is immensely rich from the sale of town lots stolen from Captain Sutler, and upon which lots the city of Sacramento now stands, while Sutler himself has little, if anything, beyond Hock Farm, if, indeed, that is altogether his ; this property is now worked by himself and two sons.

I remained the night at Hock Farm ; after the heat had subsided, I walked with him to see his arrangements, and the Indian ranche close by.

Near the house there is a garden well laid out with borders supplying vegetables to the family. Two extensive green-houses, in which his sons are raising all manner of shrubs from cuttings, flowers

and plants of every species. On the other side there are extensive vineyards extremely well kept, and which next year will be very profitable, for the captain has been taught a severe lesson; and though he will never, while he breathes, adopt a vestige of the infamy by which he has been robbed, yet he will now do his utmost to save the remnant of possessions which unprincipled scoundrels have left unplundered.

At the Indian rancherie I saw a priest performing religious duties. He was perched upon the top of one of their beehiveshaped houses, motionless, excepting that now and then he moved his head up and down. I could not see his lips move, his prayer was mental, if otherwise than merely formal; however, Captain Sutler told me that they did pray, and that the priest was now entreating the Great Spirit to

grant them in abundance, salmon, roots, and acorns, on which they live. A bevy of young Indian children were playing a game I have often seen children play in England ; they formed up in two lines, one line on each side of a stick between them ; the children stood behind each other on both sides, their arms round the waist of the one before : these so arranged then held back with all their little strength respectively the leading Indians who held each other's arms, and that party whose leader was first forced over the stick, lost the victory.

The residences of these Indians are primitive enough ; they dig a circular hole in the ground, generally twelve or fifteen feet in diameter ; over this hole, about three feet deep, they place a cover, shaped like a beehive, and made of branches of the small willow, which abounds on the

river banks ; this is again covered with anything, sometimes earth, to protect the inmates from the cold and rain. They are a thoroughly dirty and lazy race ; as usual, the women of these savages do all the domestic work, the men doing only the hunting ; bows and arrows are their weapons, and they spear the salmon.

In the evening, I rode back to Marysville. At this time of the year the country is very charming—the oak trees cover the plain, on this part, just sufficiently to give it an appearance very much resembling the New Forest : they are in their first young leaf ; the herbage is green and vigorous, flowers richly interspersed throughout.

The kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Bennett saved me from the horror of dining in a Marysville hotel — dirty companions,

greasy cookery, flies in myriads, and tobacco-smoke, are the accompaniments of these places.

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Next morning I rode to the ranche, meaning, in this case, the farm of Captain P—x ; it is situated about a mile and a half from Marysville, on the north bank of the Yuba. The locality of this farm is very beautiful, and rendered fertile by its proximity to the river. The captain is rapidly giving it an English aspect, and, in a short time, it will probably return a handsome revenue. At present, the agricultural operations in California are small enough ; the American only encloses and improves land in order to sell it as soon as he possibly can.

On horseback for the mines. Riding along the road, being about seventeen miles on my way, two buzzards took up

their position on the top of an old oak tree. I got off, unslung my rifle, and thinking the horse would remain grazing, I walked towards the tree; immediately that I fired, away went the horse, carrying with him my portmanteau, containing, amongst other things, one thousand dollars; rather a large sum for an agent, ill supplied by his principals, to see vanishing so suddenly from his possession.

The creature took the road, and preferring the descending to the ascending line, commenced a retrograde movement towards the plain, from the edge of which we were about five miles. I never could get nearer than ten yards; the moment I at all lessened that distance, the beast trotted on some hundred yards, then halted to feed. Presently, one strap of my travelling portmanteau gave way; I



feared every instant the other would also, then I must have carried it myself. The day was hot, the portmanteau heavy, and, as I walked along, apparently by inclination driving my horse before me, I was harassed by those facts. In this dilemma I retraced my morning steps at least two miles and a half, when, happily, I saw four men advancing on the road towards us ; I called to them to stop the horse ; they very good-naturedly spread themselves out to the right and left, and the animal, apparently thinking he had carried his joke far enough, allowed himself to be caught, and myself to remount.

I offered money to my allies for doing what really was to me a great service ; it was declined, with the good nature that is usually found in the bonâ-fide American miner of this country.

Having thanked and wished them suc-

cess, I made the animal compensate for the loss of time.

On reaching the mine, I found the small engine which had been erected altogether too weak to be of any service; also the owners of the mine had not only not fulfilled any part of their engagements, but that they also had refused to let Mr. D—s have a ton of quartz to try its value; he and the owners consequently were at war. The latter difficulty was got over; but Mr. D—s was determined to revenge himself upon the proprietors, and declared that the quartz, though “perhaps tolerable,” was nothing but a “land-slip,” and, therefore, would last no time. He having been sent out to report and advise with me on the question of quartz-lodes, and having decided against the “Keystone,” all farther intention to work it was abandoned. Nevertheless, I dis-

agree with him ; in my opinion, the lode is a good and continuous one.

The proprietors of this lode do not go the right way to get it purchased ; there are four of them living close upon it, yet they will do nothing to disclose its merits ; every test of its quartz has yielded gold ; yet they prefer, American like, to range the neighbouring mountains with a rifle, in search of deer, rather than employ their days in tunnelling, to ascertain the limits of the lode.

M—tl—d and H—y seem to think they have a good quartz-lode close by this place—every one has such a thing wherever an English company locates. Mr. D—s professes to entertain the same view. I think very much the reverse of all three ; but it shall be looked for, and I hope they “ may get it ”—so to-morrow Mr. D—s

and three men go to work upon the place.

At Forbes Town, about five miles distant, there is a large quartz-mill; it has been working some few weeks, but the return of gold is, by the secretary's account, "nil." The shareholders have met in an angry humour, and the question in debate has been, "Shall the secretary be hung?" In the meantime, the secretary "slopes;" this may be called illustrative of Californian life and death.

This morning has been passed in testing sundry pieces of quartz, which have been brought in from the lode professed to have been found by M—tl—d and H—y. No yield of a satisfactory nature as yet. Some of the Keystone, brought in by P—n, yields well; Mr. D—s perseveres in calling this lode a "slip." A salmon for dinner this day—a rarity for

our table—the salmon of California is, however, a very coarse fish, more fitted for being dried, than for coming to table ; it cannot be compared to the salmon of England.

The Keystone company had a meeting this day—they offer me the privilege of working “one-half” their lode for three or five years, on lease, giving one-third of the produce to them. These Americans seem to think all people babies but themselves.

A piece of pure white quartz, brought from Placerville, and described by Mr. D—s to be “miserably poor !” was pounded up ; it weighed three pounds, three quarters of an ounce, and yielded two dollars, ninety-eight cents. Another piece of very hard quartz from the same place, one pound three ounces, yielded one dollar seven cents. No gold could be seen in

either of these pieces—both of them were condemned as being “ miserably poor ! ” by Mr. D—s. I do not know what sort of a judge he may have been in the Brazils, but he does not shine here much.

## CHAPTER IX.

## MAY.

HAIL fell in the night, and we sensibly felt the cold after so much mild weather ; these changes are very frequent in the mountains.

Informed the proprietors of the Keystone lode that no machinery would be put up, if they adhered to the three or five years' lease ; they have, I believe, a rich lode, but they are too lazy, and too poor, to work it themselves, as well as too exacting, to allow us to work it for

them. P—n is a leading man amongst the proprietors, but he has a contrary set to deal with, excepting Sir G—d—n and D—k ; these are reasonable enough. He has just returned from meeting them at Forbes Town, and tells me he has the “ Blue devils ” in consequence.

We rode about five miles to see a water-mill, belonging to another company, at a place called Dicksburgh ; this mill is, I believe, for sale, with several quartz-lodes round it ; perhaps worth considering, as the Keystone, it seems, cannot be had.

In the absence of means to do anything else, the days are passed in “ prospecting ” the adjacent country for quartz-lodes, and testing any that may be brought in ; where I have found an instance of no gold, I have found, uniformly, as many as seven or eight which produce a remunera-



tive quantity; that is, from twelve to twenty-two dollars to the ton; it is true, that to make twelve dollars a ton remunerative, heavy machinery must be used. Most of these lodes would pay handsomely, if worked by only four or five shareholders, instead of their produce being divided amongst as many thousands.

The four proprietors of the Keystone, now leaving here, are amusing themselves by firing at a mark, swinging in a swing upon the branch of a tree, chasing each other about the hills, &c. The Americans, in maturity, are often more childish than even their children; and as for the latter, I have never seen one act like a child.

Mr. D—s, the mining-agent, has been prosecuting the search of a supposed lode for some days, and now he finds it a

“scatteration”—Anglice, a confused assemblage of small views.

Mr. C—y—m came from Dicksburgh to breakfast ; he is well disposed to sell his mill and quartz-lodes ; this, however, is characteristic only ; the American would sell his skin if he could get it off. Mr. D—s, however, goes back with him to examine and report upon the whole property.

H—y returned from Marysville, bringing me letters from England ; but although my letters of January have been acknowledged, yet nothing has been done towards giving me the power to draw for money in a negotiable form ; we are at a stand, consequently. How is it possible to expect success under such a system ?

Mr. G—d—n brought me a letter from the Keystone Company, stating that my

propositions with reference to working that lode would be considered, if I sent any in.

I sent in an offer to work it, giving that company one-third of the net proceeds, reserving myself a lease of twenty-one years. This will be rejected, and I shall be rid of any more bother with the lode, till the proprietors wish to go to the United States again, and then they will sell shares for what they can fetch.

Mr. D—s returned from Dicksburgh. He has thoroughly examined the appearances of the quartz-lodes there, and reports them sure to yield from one to one and a half cents per pound; this will be from twenty to thirty dollars per ton—a large produce.

He has had some thirty-five years of experience in mining matters, he says;

and if so, ought to know something of ores in general; but I much doubt his accuracy in this instance. However, he is sent to advise me in such selections.

Upon his recommendation, the property will probably be purchased or leased, as soon as the title is proved to be good; and this, when I have in hand scarcely more than two hundred dollars—thanks to the directory!

Americans here are under the delusion that they cannot at any moment be intrusive; so at six o'clock this morning, a man suddenly opened my door, while I was dressing, to inform me that the people were ready to begin the newly-surveyed line of road, and asked for my contingent. The fact of my being in the midst of towels and water was of no import-

ance—he coolly sat down, spat upon the floor, and proceeded to discuss the advantages of the new line, and favoured me by stating where he intended to put a ranche, or road-side inn, upon it.

In self-defence, I hurried on sufficient apparel to justify my appearance in public, by which means I could only lure him away from the place in which he had “squatted.” There will be found nothing sufficiently persuasive to induce an American to “vamosé” his “squat,” unless it is the dollar, or business that may lead to it; in this instance, I got him away, and supplied my labour contingent.

Mr. C—y—n and a very ruffian-looking “gentleman,” called “Mr. H—k—m,” came from Dicksburgh, about my view of purchasing or leasing their mill and

quartz-lodes. The papers are to be prepared, and my lawyers are to examine them before anything else is done.

Mr. H—k—m is a shockingly dissolute and used-up man, so far as appearance goes. Mr. C—y—n says, that it is attributable solely to his having lived all his life upon “corn-pone and ’possum-fat.” I do not know the precise influence these ingredients may have upon a man’s looks, but I should have thought, from the indications, that he had much indulged in far less innocent matters.

To-morrow I go to Marysville, en route to San Francisco, to see there a lawyer about the Dicksburgh property; his business will be to create all possible delay, so that time to get money will be gained; then, as Mr. D—s says, the quartz is so good, the property may be purchased.

On my way down I passed a light waggon; the driver of it appeared to me very unlike an American, and I thought I had somewhere been acquainted with him before. I could not decide the question, and was riding on slowly, when he nodded and said, "How are you?" The voice instantly proclaimed him to be my estimable companion and friend during a seven months' voyage in a ship previously, where we had many severe combats upon the chess-board, in which field he surpassed me in some degree.

I was delighted to meet him again, and we agreed to meet in Marysville, where we were both going. He had taken up the trade of a travelling fish-monger, and was then dispensing salmon at a considerable premium. Here was

an instance of a man, highly educated, well bred, and honourably minded, actually roving in the Californian mountains, bartering fish in the respective mining towns, which spring up and crumble away just as more or less gold is found near them. His object at first was to dig for gold, but he found that work too heavy, so he embraced a less onerous occupation, in hopes still of rendering himself independent of pecuniary help from his relations ; and heaven help those who would rather submit to labour than such aid ! We parted, and I rode on with Mr. C—y—n. Crossing the prairie, I met Dr. and Mrs. B—tt, who were riding. I go to them in the evening.

At Marysville about five o'clock. No boat till two o'clock to-morrow, so in the morning early I go to Spring



Valley, to see some good quartz lodes there.

How brutal the hotels are here ! A bar room, behind the bar of which a man sells execrable spirits and wine to a congregation who do nothing all day but eat, drink, smoke, spit and blaspheme : it is no common swearing ; the style is that of studied blasphemy. I defy the world to equal the dreadful language these Californian-Americans delight in, not when angry, more than when engaged in common conversation ; it is insufferable ; and I rejoiced at the arrival of the hour when I could fly from it for a time to the society of Dr. and Mrs. B—tt.

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This morning, the eighth, at half-past five, I got into a buggy with Mr. T—c, to make a visit to Spring Valley, sixteen miles off. The road lies chiefly across the plain or prairie ; a few of the first range of hills are surmounted before reaching the valley, which is a large space—a perfect morass in the winter, and baked clay in the dry season.

We found Mr. V—h—n located there, he being a partner in the quartz lodes of the valley : he is an Irish gentleman of conciliatory manners. He received us very kindly, and ushered us into his dwelling, which was formed by a square piece of canvas stretched from tree to tree like a ship's awning ; this, at night, and during rain, he sloped. There was no division in the interior, so a survey

of the ménage was easily made. The furniture seemed limited to his bed, two or three venerable portmanteaus, a few loaves of bread, some cold beef-steak cemented by congealed gravy to a pewter plate, some sardine cases, tea and tea-things, a case of claret, whiskey and a rifle, together with sundry samples of extremely good quartz, in which gold was very visible.

After sitting a short time, we inspected the quartz lode : it has every indication of being rich and continuous, but the want of water will prevent its being worked until the price of labour greatly falls : nevertheless these grasping poor people, struggling between labour and penury, will not listen to any but the most ridiculously extravagant terms, either in selling or working their lodes.

They think nothing of asking twenty-five thousand pounds for a lode of which little beyond a few yards of out-crop can be seen ; they assert, and maintaining their assertion, though alone by words, soon believe that the lode they have found contains inconceivable riches.

Nothing can persuade them to the contrary, and consequently they demand a price, that as none of their own citizens can give, they hope to get through the well-known insidious means distinguishing persons of speculative habits in the English share markets.

We drove back over a flat country, nearly all of which is covered with small broken quartz, exhibiting very frequently particles of gold ; it seems that at some period a quartz lode must

have been here shattered by a volcanic convulsion.

Leaving this flat, we came to " Browns' Valley, so called from the name of the first American settler in it. In this place there is apparently a vast quantity of quartz, and, if I may judge from what I saw, it must be very good ; but " specimens " are now so often made use of for deceptive purposes, that I take nothing of the kind as proof.

There is a small mill here worked by some Americans, it is said remuneratively ; it seems to me too slight to do much. The valley, however, is unquestionably worth looking after as a mining location, and I think it preferable to Dicksburgh.

About a mile and a half from this, there is a water mill working six stamps ;

the quartz they work comes from Brown's valley, and they tell me they get about two thousand five hundred dollars a week ; this is not improbable.

At this place there is a small inn very prettily situated, kept by a Scotchman named Mc Phail : everything is very clean and neat about it—just the reverse of the same kind of inns kept by the Americans.

I met with two really lovely little children here, whose early history has been eventful.

They had left the United States with their parents, both of whom had "concluded" to emigrate, and, if possible, better their conditions by going to California. The overland route was selected by them, at the time scarcely known, and full of hardships ; the father and mother were

unequal to the privations, and both sunk under them, leaving their two children orphans, and to the mercy of those with whom they had agreed to make the journey.

Unhappily these latter people had no mercy, and finding the poor children required attention from them, they did apparently all in their power short of violence to cause death.

It happened one day as they were ascending a mountain road, the snow falling, and already deep upon it, that it became necessary to lighten the wag-gons, and every one got out to walk ; the two poor children, the eldest not seven years old, were thrust out also to make their way as best they might, through the snow, no one caring about them. In a very short time they were

a considerable distance behind the party, and in a little time more were out of sight of it.

At this juncture, providentially, McPhail, who with his uncle in a light spring waggon, was also travelling by the overland route, came up and found these poor children—the elder, a boy, holding his sister by the hand—both crying bitterly, their little feet bleeding, but endeavouring still to struggle through the snow.

It needed not the natural kind-heartedness of McPhail to dictate the course to pursue; to have abandoned helpless infants to such a death as threatened them before McPhail came to their rescue, could only have been the work of a mind bred from the cradle to sacrifice every feeling of humanity at the altar of the dollar.



He and his uncle each took one of the children up, asked them how they came there, gave them the best food at their immediate command, and wrapping them up in blankets, laid them in the waggon, where, forgetting their recent peril, the poor creatures soon fell asleep.

Having found from the children that the waggon they had left was not very far before, McPhail, thinking that they had got astray unobserved by their party, pushed on, and in the course of two hours overtook the others.

He told them that he had picked up the two children, and offered to give them up ; the others, consisting of four men and three women, brutally answered him, and refused to take the children.

McPhail replied, taunting them with

their cruelty ; but declaring he now would not allow such monsters to have the children, both parties handled their rifles, the original companions of the orphans now demanding them ; one of the brutes actually jumped into McPhail's waggon, attempting to seize one of the two still sleeping children, but he was instantly knocked down by a blow from the butt end of the uncle's rifle.

This determined conduct decided the contest—cruelty and cowardice shrunk beneath the honest courage and compassionate hearts of McPhail and his uncle, who drove on in unmolested possession of the unconscious children, whom now I met considering him as their father.

McPhail had brought them up with as much care as he could possibly bestow upon them consistently with his business.

They could each read and were familiar with his Bible ; for more than three years had passed since Heaven sent them a guardian to replace the parents which it had called away.

The little things came confidently to me and began to tell me how their father (Mc Phail) washed for gold ; so I took his pan and asked them to come to the river close by to show me. I scraped up some sand, and the boy began washing it, giving it to his sister when his little arms were tired.

In a short time they came to the end of the sand nearly, when, instead of gold-dust, to their surprize they found several small silver coins, which I had, of course unperceived, put amongst it ; in great delight they ran to give them to McPhail, who solved the mystery easily enough.

I was really sorry to leave this house, then so unlike what elsewhere on the roads one always met ; but I was obliged to hurry on to meet the steamer going to Sacramento, on board of which vessel I was at four in the evening.

## CHAPTER X.

## AT SACRAMENTO.

HERE, while waiting for the steamer to San Francisco, I met my friend B—e—a ; a long conversation with him on the subject of investing British capital in Californian security.

Of course this project will be scouted by the English capitalist who knows nothing of California beyond that which he sees in the daily papers ; when he is told that he can get three and four per

cent. *per month* for his money, he flies off, as if the hand of a pick-pocket was hovering over his well-filled purse. If, however, he would take the trouble to enquire, he would find security in California equally good with that elsewhere in the world—with this difference, that he generally *elsewhere* gets an interest for the *year*, paid when *due*, which *here* he gets for the *month*, paid in *advance*.

There would be no difficulty now in lending money here in large amounts at an interest of two and a-half and three per cent. per month. The security would be city lands, city lots, brick buildings, both dwelling houses, shops, and stores. The money lent is computed to be the value of half the whole property given as security; there is no difficulty in

getting the money called in at the appointed time ; but more capital is wanted than there is now in California.

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I went over Lambard's Iron foundry here ; it is ably conducted by Mr. Goss, and the workmanship undoubtedly good.

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Madame Biscacianti is here, enchanting the population with her voice.

She has a concert this evening, and Mr. W—n, one of her most enthusiastic patrons, insists upon my accepting a ticket.

I do not much care about music in this way, and perhaps think with Dr.

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Johnson, that if some of the "most difficult were impossible," it would be no hard matter. However, the ticket is too kindly offered to allow of declining it.

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At the hotel at which I am now, the Orleans, there is daily spread at one o'clock, a table professing to bear upon it a luncheon gratis; the eatables exhibited consist of the leavings of yesterday, which now reappear in some new shape or other. A number of people flock in at this time, and in ten minutes it is difficult to find a vacant place, so eager is the unpaying community to avail itself of this opportunity of dining gratis.

The proceedings of this great body



amused me ; it consumes voraciously ; its members seize a slice of meat, dip it into the salt-cellar and salad mixture, then bite the end so rendered palatable off, continuing to dip and bite till the whole slice is eaten. Others moisten their forks, not being particular as to the source of the moisture, thrust them into the salt or pepper, and so carry away a certain portion, and wipe it on the slice of meat in their possession. There is method in this system—it brings some large number of the community to the hotel ; and though these visitants pay nothing for consuming the rubbish, yet they are each expected to take a “drink” at the bar, which is close to the luncheon table. This they all do with much fidelity, and the “drink” costs twenty-five cents. Now one

“drink” almost uniformly suggests another, and many have found out that the gratis reputation of the luncheon is but a fiction after all.

Strange as it may seem to Europeans, I have seen well-dressed people wedging their way to the table through a mass of draymen, labourers, &c. ; and not unfrequently has the Governor of the State himself acquired a forward position there, exercising at the time, like a good republican democrat, more prowess than dignity.

At two P.M. on board the steamer for San Francisco ; got there at ten, and soon found myself in the drawing-room of Mrs. S—m—ds, before a nice fire, and with English friends, who have formed a mess here. Mrs. S—m—ds being herself English, every thing here is clean and

orderly—clean room, clean bed, and clean towels not limited to fourteen inches square, the usual size of these requisites in the Californian-American hotel.

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May 12th. English mail in ; letters from home, and from the Secretary. Nothing about drawing for money, so every thing remains as it was.

I am told all foreign miners are to be taxed ; no harm in that, if the said foreign miners received any protection from the government, which they do not.

Went with the superintendent of the Aqua Fria works, to see the crusher and amalgamator, the invention of a Frenchman ; it has stamps first, then two rollers, then a cone moving half round a circle

and back again ; the amalgamation goes on in a Chilian tub. There is too much machinery about it to allow of its being used with economy.

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While standing in the street talking to F—r, a drayman turned aside rather than drive against us; too unusual an occurrence to allow of its being passed by without notice.

The society of San Francisco is changing at least, indeed improving. This evening I met a party of Californian-American ladies, each the wife of some business gentleman ; they were riding, escorted by three or four of the latter ; their horsemanship argued both ladies and gentlemen to be noviciates in the art.

The Californian-American has a most ridiculous seat on his horse, it is a bad attempt to imitate the German style ; the stirrup leather is so lengthened that his toe scarcely presses the iron ; the least undue action of the horse displaces his foot, he loses his balance, and only recovers it by using the bridle, a rein of which he generally holds in either hand. The ladies continue to assume the appearance of a bundle of clothes, the skirt of the large habit representing those pieces which are gradually being detached by the motion of the horse.

A specimen of mountain habits is given in the papers to-day.

“ A man named Clock shot his wife at French Creek, on the eleventh ; upon enquiry it was found that both were at the time intoxicated. The jury said,

‘ ‘Tain’t the gentleman’s fault—’tis the liquor!’ ”

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Saw Captain F—l—m, U. S. Army, and Mr. H—d, on the subject of introducing British capital into California. Both these gentlemen possess immense property about and in San Francisco, and are entitled to full confidence in all their dealings ; their views are connected with an extensive building scheme, so that by using brick instead of wood the danger of fire would be greatly diminished. Of the honesty and wisdom of their plans there can be no question ; but unfortunately the Mariposa and Aqua Fria affairs have thrown all Californian proposals of a pecuniary nature into such disgrace that on

one in England will listen to any projects originated in the former country.

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The papers inform us that His Majesty the King of the Sandwich Islands has in person opened the Houses of Legislature of that group. This is the very essence of burlesque ; there are three or four English and American individuals who monopolize the government of the Islands ; these gentlemen fill the office of Secretaries of State, they originate and uniformly carry all bills ; they very carefully secure to themselves the management of the revenue, in whatever shape it is raised, which considering that His Majesty often appears publicly in a state of intoxication so early as ten o'clock in the forenoon, may be

commendable. There appears to be no Mr. Hume in the legislature to scrutinize the financial acts of the ministers, and altogether the affairs of the Hawaiian Empire go on very harmoniously, never being startled but by a periodical ebullition of the desire of the American United States to depose King Tamchamea, hoist the "Glorious Stars and Stripes" upon his dominions, and convert them into another American State.

After all, it would be much better that these islands were an American State, or any state owning civilization, than remain as they are, ruled by a fool and drunkard, nominally, with no chance of benefit by the elevation of any native successor, and their resources chiefly appropriated to satisfy private cupidity.

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Saw F—r to-day about the Dicksburgh purchases. It seems the legislature have passed two bills, one prohibiting leases of longer extent than eleven years ; so a man may *not* do what he likes with his own in this “ free ” country ; the other taxing every foreign miner three dollars per month, and rendering him incompetent to appear in court upon mining questions unless it has been paid. There is nothing unfair in this ; as for the first, it is evaded by giving a lease for ten years, with the right of holding the property at its expiration for ten years longer.

In the afternoon I embarked on board the “ Bragdon ” steamer for Sacramento. Nothing but a bed in the state-room, in which I had to sleep ; at last, and with much entreaty, I got a tin pan for a basin, and a small jug of water— these comprised

the private lavatory ; certainly outside there were two tin pans, a water jug, one long revolving towel, with a hairbrush and comb hung on a nail—all for public use. Got to Sacramento early in the morning, and went to the Orleans hotel.

---

To Marysville next day. Met the MacD—lls, and arranged to visit “ Brown’s Valley ” with them and M—tl—d. We examined this place and Spring Valley more minutely. I am sure the quartz is superior ; the want of a running stream is the objection. Called on Mr. V—g—n, whom we found at his country seat, otherwise a canvas tent under an oak tree ; he says that deer, quails, hares and pigeons abound in his vicinity

Passed the night at the "Spring Valley Hotel;" a room given up to M—tl—d and myself.

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In the morning went again to the tent, and was taken by Mr. V—g—n to see the springs. They are in the summer mere mudholes. Water in the valley no doubt could be got by forming a deep reservoir, but I scarcely think enough could be obtained for the continuous working of a steam engine, amalgamation, &c., during the dry season. Mr. V—g—n says it can—but he wants to sell the quartz here.

---

Started with Maitland early for the Keystone. Nothing was ever so harass-

ing as the sand-flies which at this season scour the prairies. They are scarcely visible, being a very minute black fly; it lodges under the rim of the hat, and creates an intolerable irritation all round, and especially about the poll and ears. If the hat is raised for an instant, myriads are imprisoned by putting it on again, and then the misery is complete; the whole of the hair feels alive, there is an incessant desire to rub the head; but the certainty of adding an immensely strong reinforcement to the already confined assailants, dissipates the desire for a short time. The traveller is under the necessity of bearing an infliction half maddening in its nature, with the full certainty of rendering it worse by attempting to relieve himself. A thin veil should always be used at this period; we sub-

stituted our pocket-handkerchiefs when too late. Everything has an end, including the persecution by sand-flies ; their licence to worry travellers appears to terminate where the prairie meets the first range of mountains.

M—tl—d had an execrable horse ; nothing could force or induce the animal to move beyond a slow, shuffling trot, diversified by frequent palpable trips, threatening a fall. This animal prolonged our sufferings amongst the sand-flies much ; thanks to this brute, we only reached the Keystone long after darkness had set in.

---

Some tragic events have been perpetrated on the road we travelled. Very re-

cently, a teamster or waggoner, who had been carrying stores to the mountains, was returning with his waggon, and when he had entered a gorge leading to a small valley, three men rode up to him; without saying a word, one of them threw the noose of his lasso over his head, galloped away dragging the teamster along the ground until he had with his companions reached a secluded spot. The wretched man, though already dead, was brutally stabbed and cut.

Two other men were walking at the time, near the same place, on their way to the mountain "diggings;" they met the deserted waggon, observed its confused state, and noticing the track which had been made by the dragged body, followed it into a ravine to which it led. There they were attacked by the mur-

derers ; the youngest appeared to have been " lassoed," and to have fallen an easy victim. The other was a powerfully-made man, and from the manner in which his hands were cut, as well as from the number of stabs his body sustained, he appears to have fought for his life with great desperation.

The country had for some time been reduced into such order under the influence of " Judge Lynch," that people had thrown aside their pistols and rifles, making their journies, like these three murdered men, unarmed ; the result of which was, the renewal of murders and robberies throughout California. Until this had happened, I never carried arms ; but afterwards, whenever my saddle was put on the horse, the pistols were also in the holsters, capped and loaded. No less

than seven men were murdered in nine days in this particular vicinity ; and to this day the place bears the name of the " Murderer's Pass."

Both M—tl—d and myself were well ready for our beds ; his was made as before told, by spreading a canvas tent upon the floor, on which, after an impromptu supper, no great things by-the-bye, he laid down, and I upon my own bed.

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This day was employed principally in examining the quartz brought from Spring and Brown's Valleys ; it shows a highly-remunerative amount of gold.

H—y will go to England, to try if he can forward the loan views of Cap-



tain F—l—m and Mr. H—d : they have offered a very handsome sum to defray his expenses to England.

The proprietors of the Dicksburgh mill and quartz lodes came to me, bringing their papers, titles, &c. They think everything is now done, and are quite surprised at my expressing my intention to hand them over to a lawyer for inspection ; if found to be all right, they are to receive twenty thousand, five hundred dollars for the whole property—a small sum, if Mr. D—s is correct in his opinions.

---

The twenty seventh of May—the heat is excessive ; the mosquitoes innumerable. While I am writing Mr. D—s is flapping my head and face with a pocket-hand-

kerchief to keep them off; they are small and black, but strangely persecuting and venomous.

Left the Keystone for San Francisco, in hopes of finding funds sent out by the Directory.

At Marysville by half-past six ; Steamer Camanche going down. A waggon drove up to the Tremont hotel, where I was ; a placard in front announced that it was for sale.

Any one can be an auctioneer in the United States, so the driver now assumed that office. In order that greater publicity might be acquired, he drove the waggon through every street in the city, exclaiming, in his loudest and apparently passionate tone—

“ Seven hundred and seventy-five dollars only I am offered for this splendid

waggon, team, and harness ! Seven hundred and seventy-five only ! Will you give me eight hundred ?”

This appeal was to the general population.

---

Messrs. G—d—n and D—k, part proprietors of the Keystone lode, came down this morning; they had travelled thirty-seven miles, they told me, to see a man hung at Marysville, and were very “riled” because the execution had been deferred till July.

Arrived at Sacramento, I changed into the Antelope, a very good steamer, going to San Francisco.

On the voyage, something went wrong in the machinery: this is common in

American steam boats, nothing is looked at till it breaks ; if a man fall over-board, the Captain only asks—

“ Has that man paid his passage ? ”

If he has, then—

“ Go a-head ! I did not put him over-board.”

At San Francisco at eleven o'clock at night, two hours after time. Next morning shown some Queen Charlotte Island quartz at Messrs. Gray and Esterleys ; it is, so far as I have seen, certainly very good.



This is a lovely day, terminating the month.

At a ball, given by the British Consul to celebrate the Queen's birthday,

H—p—n asked a young lady to dance  
the next polka with him ; she replied—

“ No sirra, I never promise a-head ;  
first come, first served, is my ticket ! ”

## CHAPTER XI.

## JUNE.—TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SYMONDS.

THE summer cold winds and sea fogs have begun in earnest to day. It is blowing a perfect gale : one side of the street intensely hot, when it happens to be sheltered from the wind ; the other side cold in proportion, if sheltered from the sun.

I affix (extracted from the " New York Herald ") a beautiful tribute, offered

by a few American gentlemen to the gallantry of my poor friend Symonds, who commanded and died in the ill-fated "Amazon." This shows that he did what the Captain of the American steamer "Cheroke" dare not attempt, and thereby conveyed the passengers and treasure in safety to that vessel, when the natives would not allow an American boat to come on shore. The natives were incensed at the Americans having monopolised the business of Chagres, and rose against them; a desultory contest was carried on for some days.

The passengers and treasure arrived, and, but for Symonds, many of the first would have been killed, the latter plundered. His gallantry was fully appreciated by the Americans, who bene-

fitted by it ; but the press of San Francisco was indignant at the intervention of the British steamer !

“ It will be recollected by our readers that during the difficulties which occurred at Chagres in October last, a small party of returning Californians were placed in great peril on the Spanish side of the river at that place, from which they were relieved by the aid of Captain William Symonds, then commanding the English steamer Medway.

Believing that they owed the lives of some, if not all of their number, to the friendly exertions of that gentleman, and desirous to express their grateful recollection of his kindness, they subscribed some five hundred dollars for the manufacture of a suitable piece of silver to commemorate the service, which they



commissioned Messrs. Tiffany, Young, and Ellis to execute.

It is elegant in form, and of great size, being seventeen inches in diameter and sixteen inches in height to the top of the cover.

The lower portion represents waves of the sea, the border surrounding it being a massive rope cable.

On one side of the body of the bowl is presented a fine view of Chagres, taken from a point exhibiting the town on both sides of the river, the old fort, and the English steamer in the distance; while in the foreground are seen the British boats with the national flag at their sterns, bearing the rescued passengers out of the river.

On the other side is an escutcheon, supported on one hand by the British

Lion, on the other by the American Eagle.

Over all, the flags of the two nations are thrown, bound together by wreaths of olives, while surrounding the whole, branches of oak and laurel, emblems of strength and victory, crown the ornament of the shield.

Upon the escutcheon is the following inscription:—

PRESENTED TO

CAPTAIN WILLIAM SYMONDS,

Commanding the Royal Mail steamer Medway, by the following citizens of the United States, in token of their grateful remembrance of his generous assistance in extricating them from a situation of great danger, at Chagres, in New

Granada, on the twenty-third day of October, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

F. W. Macondray,

A. Austin,

R. S. Dorr,

H. Grimes,

J. C. Hackett,

A. G. Abell,

E. Gorham,

C. T. Foote,

A. S. Hallett,

G. B. Newell,

T. J. Haile.

Aquatic plants of various kinds spring from the bottom of the bowl, filling all the vacant spaces with their leaves and stems.

The brim is surrounded with a heavy hawser.

Two sea monsters, with their scaly tails artistically intertwined, form each handle ; and the cover, also heavily embellished with a surrounding wreath of oak and laurel, has for a handle a massive anchor, entwined with a chain cable.

It is a subject of sorrowful regret to those who ordered this beautiful testimonial, that the kind-hearted officer for whom it was destined did not live to receive it.

Captain Symonds commanded the ill-fated steamer Amazon, which was burned at sea some weeks ago, and there is little reason to doubt that he perished with the many other victims of that sad calamity ; but owing to the kind interest manifested by Mr. Robert Bunch, H. B. M. Vice Consul for this State, the donors

have ascertained that Captain Symonds has left a wife and children, and to them this evidence of grateful recollection of the husband and father will be forwarded by the next Cunard steamer, Mr. Bunch having kindly undertaken to procure a Treasury order for its admission into England, free of duty.

We subjoin a copy of a letter to Mrs. Symonds, which will accompany the testimonial :

New York, April 11, 1852.

“ MY DEAR MADAM,

“ In the month of October last, a few Americans (of whom I was one), returning from California, became greatly indebted at Chagres to Captain William

Symonds, for his generous exertions in rescuing them from a position of great peril, as the accompanying letter addressed to him in November last will explain.

Desirous to testify our gratitude to him with something more enduring than mere words, upon our arrival in this city we directed the manufacture of the piece of silver which accompanies this letter, hoping that he would accept it in earnest of our thankful remembrance of his friendly services.

But Providence has willed that he should never know how gratefully we recollect his kindness.

Ere this testimonial was completed, and probably even before the letter above alluded to could reach him, a dread calamity had deprived you of a kind and

excellent husband—us of a generous and noble-hearted friend.

Believe me, madam, we have sympathized with you deeply in this heavy sorrow you have been called upon to bear.

Not one of us who did not feel the sincerest grief at learning the untimely end of our kind benefactor ; and, though we well know how vain are all earthly consolations for such a loss, we hope that it may prove a source of some satisfaction to you, to know that a few strangers in a far-off land, who were perhaps indebted to him for the preservation of their lives, and restoration to those they loved, bear grateful testimony to his possession of those noble qualities which ever adorn the character of an English officer and gentleman.

Since an overruling Providence, in its inscrutable wisdom, has frustrated our intentions in regard to your husband, we beg that his wife will, for herself and her children, accept the accompanying testimonial of the sincerity of the sentiments above expressed.

I have the honour to be,  
 Madam, very respectfully,  
 Your obedient friend and servant,  
 ALEXANDER G. ABELL."

For himself and in behalf of—

F. W. Macondray,  
 Alexander Austin,  
 Hiram Grimes,  
 E. Gorham,  
 R. S. Dorr,  
 James C. Hackett,  
 T. J. Halle,



A. S. Hallett,  
C. T. Foote,  
I. B. Newell."

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There is no use in saying anything more about the weather for four months ; all that time will be sun, wind, dust, and fog all day. A fire in the evening often very comfortable, and extremely heavy dews.

Here I am, waiting till funds are sent out to enable me to begin getting to work upon Dicksburgh, if, indeed, Mr. D—s is right in saying that it is worth working. The time is rapidly flying away, and we are unwillingly idle ; the day is passed in doing nothing ; I am heartily tired of it.

Mr. D—s writes down to ask if sundry things shall be done ? I write up in

- reply, that no money has been sent out. He is a man of no personal means of amusing himself; for want of something better to do, I believe he would pull down his house to build it again !

## CHAPTER XII.

## MEETING AT COLUMBIA.

THE account of a meeting at Columbia has just reached me. The American labouring population desire to exclude the Chinese from the diggings, only because they will work for much less wages than themselves ; the resolutions describe the feelings of the classes peculiarly indicated, most minutely ; the sentiments of the meeting are cast in the most unqualified selfishness and anger. I believe

the American of California loves the country just in proportion to the amount of dollars and cents he can gain from it ; the public officers prove this annually.

“ At an adjourned mass meeting held at Columbia, May 8th, J. A. Palmer was chosen chairman, and Thadeus Hildreth, secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, notwithstanding the failure of the infamous ‘ Cooley Bill ’ to receive the sanction of the Senate of the Commonwealth, a disposition still exists among certain ship-owners, capitalists, and merchants, to flood the State with degraded Asiatics, and fasten, without the sanction of law, the system of peonage on our social organization ; and whereas, it is useless to expect at present any effi-

cient action, either on the part of Congress, or of the Legislature of California ; therefore—

Resolved, That it is the duty of the miners to take the matter into their own hands, and apply such remedies as the exigencies of the case may seem to demand ; to erect such barriers as shall be sufficient to check this Asiatic inundation that threatens to roll over the State, and turn back its waves on those who have set it in motion.

Resolved, That the capitalists, ship-owners, merchants, and others, who are encouraging or engaged in the importation of these burlesques on humanity, would crowd their ships with the long-tailed, horned, and cloven-footed inhabitants of the infernal regions, and contend for their introduction into the mines

on an equality with American labourers, if they could add one farthing to the rates of freight, or dispose of one pound more of pork, or a few shillings' worth of rice, by the operation.

Resolved, That such men have no regard for California, or her true interests :

They love her rocks and rills,  
Her woods and templed hills—

only in proportion to the amount of gold they can filch from the one, and the lumber they can obtain from the other.

Resolved, That no Asiatic, or South Sea Islander, shall be permitted to mine in this district, either for himself or for others, and that this resolution shall be part and parcel of our mining-laws.

Resolved, That a Committee of Vigilance, consisting of twenty, be appointed, whose business it shall be to see that the above resolution is carried out, and to correspond with the miners in the different districts of the southern mines, and endeavour to secure a thorough and efficient organization of the miners, for the purpose of protecting themselves from this influx of the degraded inhabitants of China and the islands of the Pacific.

Resolved, That we recommend the raising of a like committee in every mining district, and the appointment by them of county committees, who shall be empowered to take such steps as they may deem necessary, to secure unity and efficiency of action.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the 'Sonore Herald,' 'Stock-

ton Journal,' the 'Alta' and 'Pacific' of San Francisco.

J. A. PALMER, President.

T. HILDRETH, Secretary."

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Much talent is beginning to display itself in counterfeiting the gold "pepi-tas" found in the diggings. I was shown a piece of this manufacture to-day; it is an admirable imitation.



### CHAPTER XIII.

ARRIVALS OF EMIGRANTS. — TONNAGE OF  
VESSELS. — IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF  
BULLION.

SAN FRANCISCO has now been a city less than three years, and here is subjoined a statistical account of the arrivals of emigrants; tonnage employed; and bullion exported; during three months.

Report of arrivals of emigrants from foreign and domestic ports during the months of March, April, and May, together with the tonnage of vessels arrived

during that time, and the amount of the imports and exports of bullion :

*Arrivals during the months of March,  
April, and May.*

	Tons.
Steamers, American .....	18,070
Ships, ditto .....	8,713
Ships, Foreign .....	16,919
Barks, American .....	2,844
Barks, Foreign .....	14,731
Brigs, American .....	4,539
Brigs, Foreign .....	6,934
Schooners, American .....	2,106
Schooners, Foreign .....	1,752
Total .....	76,608

*Recapitulation—Total amount of Tonnage.*

American .....	36,272
Foreign .....	40,336
Total .....	76,608

*Arrival of Emigrants from Foreign Ports.*

Males .....	18,990
Females .....	1,398
Children .....	535
	<hr/>
Total .....	20,923

*Bullion.*

Dollars.

Import of bullion during  
the same period..... 10,1208,28

## Export of bullion as follows :

To Panama .....	9,230,500
To Nicaragua.....	108,071
To Valparaiso .....	20,549
To Mexico .....	1,000
To Honolulu .....	12,000
To Peru .....	4,000
To Calcutta .....	2,500
To China .....	155,350
	<hr/>
Total ....	9,533,970.

Although it must be remembered that this country suddenly became enabled to wield immense treasures, and therefore had the means of instantly obtaining all the inventions of modern times, together with the productions of every nation in the world, yet much is due to the energy of its present population, for the advanced state in which it now is. European capital has also been largely engaged here, and the principal mercantile firms are certainly those of the French and German empires.

## CHAPTER XIV.

THE CITY DEBT.—THE JENNY LIND PURCHASE.—ACCOUNTS FROM THE “DIGGINGS.”

THERE is great discontent amongst the San Francisco people upon the subject of the city debt ; as yet, every mayoralty has been very conspicuous for its activity in making contracts, purchases, &c., all of which, it is alleged, have had a direct tendency to enrich the city councillors. The question in debate at this time, is the purchase of the “Jenny Lind” theatre,

for the purpose of converting it into a city-hall, for the exercise of aldermanic eloquence, &c. The two following letters have appeared, and it is not improbable that Judge Lynch may actually officiate in the council-chamber; what makes the matter worse, is the fact, that a proposal to build a most complete city-hall, for half the purchase-money of the theatre, has been sent in, but the council held out:

“ THE JENNY LIND PURCHASE.

*To the Editor of the Herald.*

The purchase of the Jenny Lind certainly is a project which benefits the few at the expense of the many mechanics, merchants, and labourers generally, of San Francisco; it is a tax of about

five dollars to each citizen, if divided equally.

But this money put into the hands of a few men will make them rich. It would make one man very rich.

I certainly have no private interest at stake, and if the common council had taxed two millions of dollars, instead of two hundred thousand, upon the mechanics and labourers of San Francisco, it would not have affected me, because I have no property in the city to be taxed.

Nevertheless, in all my experience, I never knew a public body in any part of the United States to rush through a measure, in spite of their constituents, their petitions, public meetings, remonstrances, and unmistakeable wishes.

Public men in our government profess,

at least, to be controlled by the known wishes of the governed. But here, in San Francisco, there is a body holding the reins of city government, not by choice of the people, but in defiance of the people, and that by some legal crotchet at war with the moral sense.

Now, for my part, I would as soon live under the tyranny of the "Hounds" as under this species of tyranny. Why banish Sydney men, while such hold the reins of government?

Mr. Editor, the citizens of California, and particularly of San Francisco, are the best-taxed people on the whole habitable globe.

The city government of San Francisco is enormously expensive already.

Debt-ridden England does not impose such monstrous taxes as the citizens and



denizens of San Francisco pay. Much of our State and City taxation comes from mismanagement.

In my day I have witnessed bad legislation ; I have seen bad laws bankrupt the great states of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Alabama, &c.

I have seen Mississippi repudiate her public debt !

I have seen these States impose taxes, and send around to the farmer, merchant, and mechanic, the hateful tax-gatherer, to collect their hard earnings to pay for reckless legislation !

Now, while we see every steamer carry away some official, who has accumulated a large fortune, by some two years' speculation in office ; and while we see the current of legislation directed to personal ends, at the expense of the State at large,

what, let me ask, is to save California from the shackles of debt and bankruptcy, if not repudiation?

Who are our public servants or task-masters?

In many instances, they are composed of bankrupt demagogues and political hacks, run out in the old States, and flocking hither to live at the public expense, and to return home rich as soon as need be.

These men will manage elections, and fatten on us all, until the people shall throw party to the winds, and vote for no man who does not enjoy a fair reputation for honour and integrity.

Private honesty should be the test.

X. Y. Z."

*“ To the Editor of the Herald.*

I have observed in your paper many communications, lately, in regard to the action of the council on the city-hall ordinance ; but none seem to propose any measures which would be at all likely to influence those ‘ honourable men ’ to retract or re-consider their acts.

We all know that they are men who have no good principles, and not sense enough to direct their bad ones into a politic course.

It is useless to recapitulate these facts.

Your suggestion in to-day’s paper meets the hearty approval of many citizens.

Let a meeting en masse be called at two o’clock, on Wednesday afternoon—

not for the purpose of forming resolutions, to be broken and disregarded as soon as the meeting shall adjourn, but to join into one party all opposed to this assumption of authority on the part of the council, and to agree to go together to the council-chamber, and eject those lawless fools at their first meeting, pledging mutual support and unity of action, and violence, if necessary, to those who trample on their rights.

Such, and such action only, will be felt.

LYNCH."

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There are daily good accounts from the "diggings;" seventy thousand persons are supposed to be engaged there. In 1849, there were but two wretched

“ adobè ” houses here, and some few more-wretched fishing-huts; now there is a housed population of thirty-five thousand, six well-built and commodious churches, with minor places of worship (if that can be called worship, which divides its attention on Sundays between the church, the bull-fight, and race-course). Judicial courts, town council, four theatres, three hundred and sixty-seven hotels, restaurants, &c.; tanks containing three hundred and forty-six thousand gallons of water:

## GALLONS.

On the Plaza .....	45,000
Corner of Montgomery and Washington .....	17,000
Corner of Montgomery and Commercial .....	26,000
Corner of Montgomery and California .....	35,000

	GALLONS.
Corner of Sacramento and Kearney .....	25,000
Corner of Jackson and Kearney .....	26,500
Kearney, facing Pine .....	16,000
Corner of Dupont and Sa- cramento.....	42,000
Corner of Dupont and Pa- cific.....	33,000
Corner of Stockton and Pa- cific.....	24,000
Corner of Bush and Mont- gomery .....	25,000
California Engine-house .....	14,000
Sacramento, above Stock- ton .....	18,000
	<hr/>
	346,000

There is also an extremely well-organized system in the fire-engine department, two hospitals, an orphan asylum, and sundry other useful institutions.

## CHAPTER XV.

## AN INDIAN EXECUTION.

THE account of an Indian execution appears in the next page ; these trials take place by no other authority than that held by the sovereign citizens ! A man is found murdered, an armed deputation visits the Indian ranche near, the culprits are demanded, the chief knows nothing of the murder, but he will make enquiry. A day or two elapses, and he



hands over some wretched old Indian as the offender; he is tried by Lynch law, and, as a matter of course, hung up.

The only proof of the murder having been committed by an Indian, is the fact of Indian arrows having been found stuck in the body of the dead man.

It is now known that other murderers have so pierced the corpse, to lead the feeling against the Indian.

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*Indians Hung at Rough and Ready.*—Two Indians were hung on Tuesday, at Rough and Ready, for the murder of an American by the name of Emanuel Comstock. The murder was com-

mitted some three weeks since. The body of the murdered man was not found until Sunday last, pierced through with an arrow. Immediate steps were taken to find the murderers, which proved successful.

On Tuesday morning, a judge and twelve jurymen were appointed from the people, and a trial commenced. Mr. Whiteside was attorney for the prosecution, and Mr. Lyons acted in behalf of the prisoners. A fair trial was given them, without the usual legal forms. The proof of their guilt was conclusive, and they had to suffer the penalty of death.

Comstock was from Mineral Point, Wis.

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A place aptly called "Rich Bar" invites much notice.

"Rich Bar is about six miles from Neal's Rancho, on Butte Creek, and although not just discovered, still there is room for a great many to do well here.

Some of the miners are making as high as fifty to sixty dollars per day ; and all that work, as far as I can learn, make from sixteen dollars to an ounce per day."

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The steamer "Winfield Scott" came in, and reports the mail steamer from Panama near ; so every American is in the greatest state of excitement, and

many hats are betted on the time of her arrival.

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The inauguration, I suppose it may be called, of a fire-engine took place this day. It had very recently arrived from New York, and having been duly brushed up after its voyage, was now introduced to the city in which it was "bound" to operate.

A procession of the Fire Companies was formed ; each company dragged its respective engine. The men were dressed in blue trousers and red woollen frocks, and wore leather helmet-shaped hats ; the engines were tastefully decked out with wreaths of flowers, such as could

be obtained from the vicinity of the city, and a band preceded the whole. It is certainly great folly to drag fire-engines, or any other heavy thing, about unnecessarily—but these people must have a show.

The members of these Fire Companies receive no pay, but are in the enjoyment of some immunities relieving them from city duties of some kind, and they turn out most readily upon the first alarm of fire.

When working the engine, the captain stands on it, and is incessantly roaring out some exciting phrase, the origin of his own humour, through a trumpet, the effect of which is not lost upon the "citizens" each of which body cheers his fellow on. The uproar is beyond conception, and doubtless has caused the

loss of many buildings, which calmer and methodical management would have saved. During the procession, it stops at all the leading restaurants to take a drink; "cock-cobler, mint julep, or ginsling," as it may be.

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The Atlantic mail has arrived. As this vessel approaches the wharf, a dense crowd collects there; even before she touches it, many of the more active leap on board. Presently she is made fast, one narrow plank is passed from the ship to the shore—from this moment all order and control ceases. The captain and officers "are nowhere," the crowd tries to rush into the ship, and the passengers try to force their

way out. Here and there a "citizen" drops into the water, and he must help himself out of it as he can, for no one minds *him*. Happy is the passenger who can fall in behind a trunk making its transit from the ship; he of course assists and bears up the trunk carrier all he possibly can, for his own success depends upon that of the trunk. After about a quarter of an hour's pushing, swearing, and struggling, the trunk perhaps safely lands, and the passenger behind it, or in that time both may be in the water, or driven back.

As for the interference of a policeman to enforce some little and very desirable order, such a measure would be considered repugnant to the rights of a republican.

These rights, interpreted by an American, enable him to do just as much

as his strength will enable him to do! so, as the passengers are the weakest party, they generally have to stay on board till the curiosity furor of the crowd has subsided.

This is one of the delights of the one-sided freedom of the "everlasting States."



## CHAPTER XVI.

### PRESCRIPTION LAW.

THE following is the "prescription" law passed by the general legislature, for the State of California.

"1st. That any person who is the head of a family and a citizen of the United States, or any person who is the head of a family, and had become a citizen prior to the first day of January, 1852, as required by the natural-

ization laws of the United States, shall from and after the passing of this act, be entitled to enter, free of cost, one quarter section of vacant and unappropriated Public Lands, or a quantity equal thereto, to be located in a body, in conformity with the legal subdivision of the Public Lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed.

2nd. The person applying for the benefit of the act, to make an affidavit that he or she is the head of a family, and is not the owner of any estate in land at the time of such application, and has not disposed of any estate in land to obtain the benefit of the act.

3rd. Section refers to the duties of the Land Registrar.

4th. All lands acquired under the provision of the act, shall in no event

become liable to the satisfaction of any debt or debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent ; therefore—

5th. If at any time after filing the affidavit required, and before the expiration of five years, it shall be proved that the person locating on such lands shall have changed his or her residence, or abandoned the said entry for more than six months at any one time, then the land to revert back to the Government, and be disposed of as other public lands are now by law.

6th. If any individual now a resident of any state or territory, and not a citizen of the United States ; but at the time of making application for the benefit of the act, shall have filed a declaration of intention so to do, as required by the naturalization laws of the United

States, and shall become a citizen of the same before the issuing of the patents, as made and provided for in this act, shall be placed upon an equal footing with the native-born citizen.

7th. No individual is permitted to make more than one entry under this act.

This law indisputably has operated to clear an immense amount of land in the United States in a very short period.

It induces emigration from other countries, because the emigrant feels that he can get an immediate means of locating, without fear of being disturbed, and consequently he can lay out any little capital he may possess upon that which is his own property.

It is in every way much preferable

to the practice which has obtained frequency in our Colonial disposition of the waste lands. Granting immense tracts of land to individuals has done more to retard the maturity of many of our Colonies, than could have been effected by any other means ; and the practice of selling by auction at the upset price gives speculators and jobbers enormous opportunities of completely perverting the good intentions of the government, supposing any to have existed beyond that of benefitting some influential person.

The endeavour to colonize by granting these large tracts to such persons, who in scarcely any instance ever did more than visit them once in their lives, has been found to be the most productive of dis-

content in the colonies, and disloyalty to the mother country.

The landlords employ necessarily agents; these demand the payment of the rent for which land is leased. The payments are then more frequently made in labour on the agent's *own* land than in any other manner. He screws the tenant, apparently for the landlord's interest; the tenant, who is generally some very ignorant Irishman, or else an English or Scotch labourer, feels the weight of the lease system, and thinks it very hard that he cannot have a grant of fifty or an hundred acres, when some great noble or well-allied commoner holds a grant of some twenty thousand or more. Hence the discontent and disloyalty.

The United States prescription law, on the contrary, induces an attachment

to the Government, because that government has by this law pointed out the road to the dollar and cent ; a sure method of rivetting American approbation.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### STEAM-BOAT COMBINATION.

THERE is a combination amongst the steam-boats running between San Francisco and Sacramento.

The object is to force passengers to pay ten dollars for a passage to Sacramento, and five dollars for a state room ; and in order to induce the smaller boats to lay up, the combination consents to pay one dollar a-head for each pas-



senger they receive on board ; so the owners of the small boats receive so much for doing nothing—which is the preferable way of getting money.

The “ state room ” of an American steamer is a burlesque upon state.

It is a space of about six feet by seven, has three bed-places in it, and one wash-hand stand ; through an opening, and during the night, the light is borrowed from a lamp, which can ill afford to lend it, that hangs up in the saloon.

For this “ state ” you have to pay five dollars, unless you do not object to one or two companions, in which case you pay proportionally less, and most likely when you awake at daylight find the feet of your companion located immediately over you, disagreeably disposed of with reference to yourself, and

the owner of them spitting on the floor, preluding each discharge with some most harsh sound, giving evidence of the depth from which the objectionable material has been torn.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

TWO MEN SHOT IN COURT—A MEETING OF  
THE CITIZENS — ANOTHER HANGING  
SCRAPE ANTICIPATED — TREMENDOUS  
EXCITEMENT.

IN the correspondence of the "Herald,"  
under the date of Sacramento, June  
16, 1852, is the following :—

" Our city has been thrown into con-  
siderable excitement, in consequence of  
an unfortunate and disgraceful affray that

occurred in the Court of Sessions, about twelve o'clock to-day.

Judge Wilson, Associate Judge of the Court of Sessions, it appears, had said something to the disparagement of Mr. McKune, to which the latter took exceptions.

This morning, immediately after the adjournment of the Court, Mr. McKune demanded an explanation and retraction.

As Judge Wilson stepped from the bench, in the presence of the other Judges, Mr. McKune insisted upon an apology.

Judge Wilson declined apologising, and Mr. McKune, backed by a fellow y the name of Caulfield, and others, attacked the Judge in the Court House, and struck him over the head with a cane.

Judge Wilson, having a sword-cane in his hand, drew it, and thrust through the body of Mr. McKune.

Mr. McDonald, the keeper of the jail, rushed between the combatants, caught Judge Wilson, and prevented him from doing further injury.

McDonald was between Wilson and McKune.

Here it was supposed this disgraceful affair was ended ; but not so.

While McDonald was holding Judge Wilson, Caulfield drew a revolver and fired it three several times at Wilson, the last shot taking effect.

The ball entered the body of McDonald.

The wound is not considered dangerous.

Fears are entertained that McKune will not survive.

A strong and bitter feeling is aroused against Caulfield, and there is a strong probability that he will be summarily dealt with.

These are the facts as related by persons in the room during the affray. I was not present, and can only give you this account.

At a few minutes before one o'clock P.M., a man went through our city, summoning the citizens to meet *en masse* at the Orleans Hotel, to take into consideration, as the notice was worded, 'the recent murders committed in our midst.'

At one o'clock, between eight hundred and a thousand persons assembled.

Judge Brown was called to the chair.

Loud cries were then heard for Dr.

Spaulding, who appeared on the stand, and explained the object of the meeting.

A committee of fifteen was appointed to take charge of the prison brig, to prevent all escapes

A committee of three was also appointed to investigate the whole matter.

I write in haste, amidst the greatest excitement and confusion I have witnessed for years.

*Twenty Minutes later.*—The crowd at the Orleans is increasing rapidly.

A rumour has reached us that McKune is dead.

A brother of McDonald has just informed the meeting that the wound has not been probed.

Caulfield is the leader of the squatters in this country, and desperate efforts

will doubtless be made to save him. I think it will be useless.

There is a strong feeling against him ; and judging from the feeling manifested, he will be dead before night.

I will keep this open until the latest possible moment.

*Half-past one P.M.*—The investigating Committee has not yet reported to the meeting.

The Committee of fifteen have taken possession of the prison brig.

It is feared the squatters will make an attempt to release Caulfield.

In haste,

D. W. G.

*Quarter to Two.*—McKune is dead. McDonald is lying in a critical condition."

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The weather is beginning to grow extremely hot, which possibly may contribute to explain the *pleasanteries* of an American Court at Sacramento. It is "a great country!"

## CHAPTER XIX.

## SAN MATHEO.

THIS morning Mr. H—d called for me in his buggy, and drove me to his residence called San Matheo, about thirty miles south of San Francisco.

The first ten miles of the road is dreary enough, a short wiry herbage struggling to thrive upon a thin strata of soil which covers the slopes of the mountains, upon which huge masses of rock, generally

greenstone, incessantly break through ; and during this distance the cold wind and fog of a San Francisco summer extends a cheerless influence.

The remaining twenty miles the road traverses the foot of some wooded mountains, fertile land, and a heavenly climate, so short a limit has the wind and fog just mentioned.

When we left San Francisco we were both wrapped in cloaks ; in an hour's time our cloaks were thrown off, and we were enjoying nothing more than a breeze tempered by a delicious sunshine.

Mr. H—d has at San Mattheo a residence very nicely situated just where the slope of the mountain terminates and the plain begins ; it is pleasantly placed amongst evergreen oaks, and some magnificent bay trees, which here grow to the

size of timber trees, and throw a most delightful shade around. There is a stream of water winding through the plain, and flows very happily near to the house.

So far, Nature has done her part, and indeed has added a splendid view of the upper part of the bay of San Francisco, Monte Diablo and its mountain range towering in grand elevation on the other side.

I wish I could say as much in praise of the interior, where Nature gives up her reign to man.

We arrived at four in the afternoon, and to my surprise I found San Matheo to be a boarding house as well as a gentleman's country retreat.

There were some three or four married parties boarding there, and at six we all sat down to what is here called, "supper;" for me, it was dinner.

At this meal the farming people came in from their work, not very clean, and took their places at the table ; everything was huddled on at the same time, and to roast beef an invitation was given to unite ham, chicken, fruit pie, pickles, &c.

Oh ! this American table-d'hôte ! I would rather live in a tent under a tree, than be exposed to its disgusting combinations.

The meal being hurried over as if every one had some vast object to attain, brandy and cigars are produced !—a climax very abhorrent in my opinion.

Withdrawing to go to bed under pretence of fatigue, a legion of fleas commence their operations upon your person, and the night is passed in severely rubbing oneself in hopes of inflicting death, as each new wound is felt, or as the insect makes its tour about you.

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There is no retreat from these pests ; they lurk in the folds of your linen, and wherever you are, every now and then you grasp a portion of your clothes, then heavily rub about the region where the tickling run of the flea is felt.

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The next morning Mr. H—d and myself rode to examine some rocks reputed to bear gold, which they certainly do not, and then returned to San Francisco.

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“Gentlemen,” for there are no mere “men” here, are described as “Drunks” when in liquor, and brought up for judgment. An example is here extracted.

*Drunks.*—Three persons, whose passion for liquor got the better of their judgment, were picked up in the streets on Sunday.

They were discharged, upon promising to be more careful in future."

It is strange that a nation professing to repudiate distinctive titles should be the first to avail itself of every means in its power to use and bestow any which it can grasp most eagerly ; so first we find the term "gentleman" applied to waiters, draymen, &c.

I asked one day the locality of a mercantile house, at which I had some business to execute. The reply was,

"Well, I don't know, but I guess that dark *gentleman* will tell you," pointing to a negro who had a shoe-blackening establishment in the street.

So also, when you ask who is to plead a case in court, you are told Mayor or Colonel some one or another. A banker, a most gentlemanlike and upright man,

who holds a high position in the monied as well as social world, is styled "General," though probably he never even saw a parade, much less ever had a military appointment ; and as for judges, almost every lawyer is one.

END OF VOL. I.

J. BILLING, PRINTER, WOKING, SURREY.



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1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the government. The names are listed in alphabetical order, and each name is followed by the name of the office to which the person has been appointed. The list is as follows:

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